

Vol. 2

DE FOE'S VOYAGE

ROUND THE

W O R L D.

CAPT. Merlotte and my chief mate bestowed their time so well, and obliged the natives so much, by the toys and trifles they gave them, that they presently told them that the gold, which they called Aarah, was picked up in the rivers that came down from a mountain which they pointed to, a great way off. Our men prevailed with three of them, to go with them to one of these rivers, and gave them beads and such things to encourage them, but no hatchet: That was kept up at a

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high rate, and as a rarity, fit only for a king or some great man who wore Aarah on his ears.

In a word, they came to the river, where, they said, they found this Aarah ; and the first thing our men observed there, was an Indian sitting on the ground, and beating something upon a great stone, with another stone in his hand, for his hammer : They went to see what he was doing, and found he had got a lump of gold from the sand, as big as a swan shot, of no regular shape ; but full of corners, neither round or square ; and the man was beating it flat, as well as he could.

One of our men who had a hatchet in his hand, made signs to him, to let him flat it for him ; and so turning the back part of the hatchet, which served the purpose of a hammer, he beat the piece of gold flat in an instant ; and then turning it upon the edge, beat

beat it that way, until he brought it to be round also.

This was so surprizing to the man who had been beating, that he stood looking on, with all the tokens of joy and amazement; and desiring to see the hatchet, looked this way and that way, upon those of his countrymen, who came with us; as if asking them, if ever they saw the like.

When our man had done, he made signs to know if he had any more Aarah; the man said nothing, but went down to the brink of the river; and putting his hand into a hole, he brought out three little lumps of gold, and a great many smaller, some of them about as big as a large pin's head; all which he had laid up there, in the hollow of a stone. Our man thought it was too much, to take all that for the hatchet; and therefore pulled out some beads, and pieces of glass and such toys; and in short

bought all this cargo of gold; which in the whole, weighed near five ounces, for about the value of two shillings.

Though these bargains were very agreeable to us, yet the discovery of such a place, and of such a fund of treasure, in a part of the world, which it is very probable, was never seen before by any European eyes, nor so much as enquired after, was the greatest satisfaction imaginable to me; knowing the adventurous temper of the gentleman, who was our principal employer. Upon this account, while my men bustled themselves in their daily search after gold, and in finding out the rivers, from whence it came; or rather where it was found; I employed myself to be fully informed where this place was; whether it was an island, or a continent; and having found a tolerable good road for our ships to ride in, I caused my two shal-
lops

tops well manned, to run along the coast, both East and West, to find which way it lay; and whether they could find any end of it; as also to see what rivers, what people, and what provisions they could meet with.

By my observation, I found that we were in the latitude of seven and twenty degrees and thirteen minutes South Meridian; distance from the Ladrones about sixteen degrees East. While my shallops were gone, I went on shore, and some of my men set up tents, as well for the convenience of their traffick, as for their resting on shore all night; keeping, however, a good guard, and having two of our ship dogs with them, who never failed giving them notice, whenever any of the natives came near them; for what ailed the dogs, I know not, but neither of them could bear the sight of the Indi-

ans, and we had much to do, to keep them from flying at them.

While we rode here, we had the most violent storm of wind, with rain, and with great claps of thunder, that we had yet sustained, since we came out of England: It was our comfort, that the wind came off shore, for it blew at South, and shifting between the South, South East and South West, with such excessive gusts, and so furious, and withal, not only by squalls and sudden flaws, but a settled terrible tempest, that had it been from off sea, as it was off shore, we must have perished, there had been no remedy: And even as it was, we rode in great danger. My boatswain called out twice to me, to cut my masts by the board, protesting, we should either bring our anchors home, or founder as we rode; and indeed the sea broke over us many times, in a terrible manner. As I said before, we had
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an indifferent good road, and so we had, but not a very good one, for the land was low; and on the East we lay a little open. However, our ground tackle was good, and our ship very tight, and I told the boatswain I would rather slip the cable, and go off to sea, than cut the masts. However, in about four hours time more we found the wind abate, though it blew very hard for three days after.

I was in great pain for my two shallops in this tempest, but they had both the good luck to lie close under the shore; and one indeed had hauled quite upon the land, where the men lay on shore under their sail; so that they got no damage; and about three days after, one of them returned, and brought me word they had been to the West, where they had made very little discovery, as to the situation of the country, and whether it was an island or a

continent ; but they had conversed with the natives very often, and found several who had pieces of gold, hanging some in their hair, some about their necks ; and they made a shift to bring as many with them, as weighed all put together, seventeen or eighteen ounces, for which they had bartered toys and trifles, as we did ; but they found no rivers, where they could discover any gold in the sands, as we had done, so that they believed it all came from the side where we were.

But our other shallop had much better luck ; she went away to the East, and by the time she had gone about sixteen leagues, she found the shore break off a little, and soon after a little more, until at length they came as it were, to the land's end ; when the shore running due South, they followed according to their account, near thirteen leagues more.

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In this interval, they went several times on shore, entered three rivers indifferently large, and one of them very large at the mouth, but grew narrow again, in three or four leagues; but a deep channel, with two and twenty to eight and twenty fathom water in it all the way, as far as they went.

Here they went on shore and trafficked with the natives whom they found, rude and unpolished, but a very mild inoffensive people; nor did they find them any thing thievish, much less treacherous; as in some countries is the case. They had the good luck, to find out the place where, as they supposed, the king of the country resided; which was a kind of a city, encompassed with a river, almost all round, the river making a kind of double horse-shoe. The manner of their living is too long to describe; neither could our men give any account of their government,
or

or of the customs of the place; but what they sought for, was gold and provisions, and of that they got pretty considerable.

They found the Indians terribly surprized at the first sight of them; but after some time, they found means to let them know they desired a truce; and to make them understand what they meant by it.

At length a truce being established, the king came, and with him near three hundred men; and soon after the queen, with half as many women. They were not stark naked, neither men or women, but wearing a loose piece of cloth about their middles; what it was made of, we could not imagine: for it was neither linen or woollen, cotton or silk; nor was it woven; but twisted and braided by hand, as our women make bone lace with bobbins. It seems it was the stalk of an herb, which this was made with; and was so strong, that I doubt

doubt not, it would have made cables for our ships, if we had wanted to make such an experiment.

When the king first came to our men, they were a little shy of his company, he had so many with him, and they began to retire; which the king perceiving, he caused all his men to stop, and keep at a distance; and advanced himself, with about ten or twelve of his men, and no more.

When he was come quite up, our men, to shew their breeding, pulled off their hats, but that he did not understand; for his men had no hats on. But the officer making a bow to him, he understood that presently, and bowed again; at which all his men fell down flat upon their faces, as flat to the ground, as if they had been shot to death with a volley of our shot; and they did not fall so quick, but they were up again as nimbly, and then down flat on the ground again;

again; and this they did three times, their king bowing himself to our men, at the same time.

This ceremony being over, our men made signs to them that they wanted victuals to eat, and something to drink; and pulled out several things, to let the people see they would give something for what they might bring them.

The king understood them presently, and turning to some of his men, he talked a while to them, and our men observed, that while he spoke, they seemed to be terrified, as if he had been threatening them with death. However, as soon as he had done, three of them went away, and our men supposed they went to fetch something that the king would give them; upon which, that they might be beforehand with them, our men presented his majesty with two pair of bracelets of fine glass-beads of several colours, and put them upon his
arms,

arms, which he took most kindly; and then they gave him a knife, with a good plain ivory handle, and some other odd things. Upon receiving these noble presents, he sends away another of his men, and a little after, two more.

Our men observed, that two of the men went a great way off toward the hill, but the other man that he sent away first, went to his queen, who with her retinue of tawny ladies, stood but a little way off, and soon after her majesty came with four women only, attending her.

The officer who commanded our men, finding he should have another kind of compliment to pay the ladies, retired a little; and being an ingenious handy sort of a man, in less than half an hour, he, and another of his men, made a nice garland, or rather a coronet of sundry strings of beads, and with glass bobs and pendants, all hanging
about

about it most wonderful gay ; and when the queen was come, he went up to the king, and showing it to him, made signs that he would give it to the queen.

The king took it, and was so pleased with the present, that truly he desired our officer to put it upon his own head, which he did ; but when he had got it so placed, he let our men see, he was king over his wife, as well as over the rest of the country, and that he would wear it himself.

Our man then pulled out a little pocket looking-glass, and holding it up, he let his majesty see his own face, which we might reasonably suppose, he had never seen before, especially with a crown on his head too. Before he saw his own face in the glass, he was grave and majestic, and carried it something like a king ; but he was so delighted with the novelty, that he was quite beside himself, and jumped and capered

pered and danced about like a madman.

All this while, our men saw nothing coming, but that all was given on their side; whereupon they made signs again, that they wanted provisions.

The king then made signs, pointing to a hill a good way off, as if it would come from thence very quickly; and then looked to see if his people were coming, as if he was impatient till they came, as well as our men.

During this time, one of our men observed, that the queen had several pieces of gold, as they thought them to be, hanging about her, particularly in her hair, and large flat plaits of gold upon the hinder part of her head, something in the place of a roll as our women wear; that her hair was wound about it in rolls braided together very curiously; and having informed our officer, he made signs to the king,

king, for leave to give the queen something, which he consented to. So he went to her majesty, making a bow as before: But this complaisance surprized her; for upon his bowing, on a sudden falls the queen and all her four ladies flat on the ground, but were up again in a moment; and our people wondered how they could throw themselves so flat on their faces, and not hurt themselves, nor was it less to be wondered at, how they could so suddenly jump up again, for they did not rise up gradually as we must do, with the help of our hands and knees, if we were extended so flat on our faces; but they, with a spring, whether with their hands or their whole bodies, we knew not, sprang up at once, and were upon their feet immediately.

This compliment over, our officer stepped up to the Queen, and tied about her neck a most delicate necklace of pearl; that is to say,
of

of large handsome white glass beads, which might in England cost about four pence halfpenny, and to every one of her ladies he gave another of smaller beads and differing colours than those which he gave the Queen: Then he presented her Majesty with a long string of glass beads, which being put over her head reached down to her waist before, and joined in a kind of tassel, with a little knot of blue ribband, which she was also extremely pleased with; and very fine she was.

The Queen made, it seems, the first return; for stepping to one of her women, our men observed that her attendant took something out of her hair, and then the Queen let her tie her hair up again; after which her Majesty brought it, and gave it to our officer, making signs to know if it was acceptable. It was a piece of gold that weighed about two ounces and a half; it had been beaten as flat as they knew
how

how to beat it. But the metal was of much more beauty to our men than the shape.

Our officer soon let the queen and people see that he accepted the present, by laying it to his mouth and to his breast, which he found was the way when they liked any thing. In short, our officer went to work again, and in a little while he made a little coronet for the queen, as he had done before for the king, though less; and without asking leave of his majesty, went up to her and put it upon her head; and then gave her a little looking-glass, as he had done to the king, that she might view her face in it.

She was so surprized at the sight that she knew not how to contain herself; but to shew her gratitude, she pulled out another plate of gold out of her own hair, and gave it to our officer; and not content with that, she sent one of her women

men to the croud of females who first attended her, and whether she stripped them of all the gold they had, or only a part, she brought so many pieces, that when together they weighed almost two pounds.

When she was thus dressed, she stepped forward very nimbly and gracefully towards the king, to show him what she had got; and finding he was dressed as fine as herself, they had work enough for near two hours, to look at one another and admire their new ornaments.

Our men reported, that the king was a tall well shaped man, of a very majestic deportment, only that when he laughed he shewed his teeth too much, which however were as white as ivory: As for the queen, saving that her skin was of a tawny colour, she was a very pretty woman; very tall, a sweet countenance, admirable features, and,

and, in a word, a compleatly handsome lady.

She was very oddly dressed; she was quite naked from her head to below her breasts: Her breasts were plump and round, not flaggy and hanging down, as it generally is with the Indian women, some of whose breasts hang as low as their bellies; but projecting as beautifully as if they had been laced up with stays round her body; and below her breast she had a broad piece of a skin of some curious creature, spotted like a leopard, probably of some fine spotted deer. This was wrapped round her very tight, like a body-girt to a horse; and under this she had a kind of petticoat, as before described, hanging down to her ankles. As for shoes or stockings, they were only such as nature had furnished. Her hair was black, and as supposed, very long, being wreathed up, and twisted in long locks about the
plate

plate of gold she wore; for when she pulled off the plate above-mentioned, it hung down her back, and upon her shoulders, very gracefully: But it seems she did not think so, for as soon as she found it so fallen down, she caused one of her women to roll it up, and tie it in a great knot which hung down in her neck, and did not look so well as when it was loose.

While the king and the queen were conversing together about their fine things as above, our men went back to the boat, where they left the purchase they had got, and furnished themselves with other things fit to traffic with, as they saw occasion; and they were not quite come up to the king again, when they perceived that the men the king had sent up into the country were returned; and that they brought with them a great quantity of such provisions as they had; which chiefly consisted of roots and

maize, or Indian corn, and several fruits which we had never seen before: Some of them resembled the large European figs, but were not really figs; with some great jars of water, having herbs steeped in it, and roots, that made it look as white as milk, and drank like milk sweetened with sugar, but more delicious, and exceeding cool and refreshing. They brought also a great quantity of oranges, but they were neither sweet nor sour, and our men believed they were not ripe; but when they were dressed after the manner of the country, which they shewed our men, and which was to roast them before the fire, they had an admirable flavour, and our men brought a great many away to us, and when we roasted them they exceeded any thing of the kind I had ever tasted.

After our men had received what was brought, and shewn that the whole was very acceptable, the king made

made signs that he would be gone, but would come again to them the next morning; and pointing to the queen's head, where the plate of gold had been that she had given to our men, intimated that he would bring some of the same with him the next day. But while he was making these signs, one of his other messengers came back, and gave the king something into his hand wrapped up, which our men could not see: As soon as the king had it, as if he had been proud to show our men that he could make himself and his queen as fine as they could make him, he undid the parcel, and decked out his queen with a short thing like a robe, which reached from her neck down to the spotted skin which she wore before, and so it covered her shoulders and breast. It was made of an infinite number and variety of feathers, oddly, and yet very curiously, put together; and was

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spangled

spangled all over with little drops or lumps of gold; some no bigger than a pin's head, which had holes made thro' them, and were strung six or seven together, and so tied on to the feathers; some as big as a large pea, hanging single, some as big as a horse-bean, and beaten flat, and all hanging promiscuously among the feathers, without any order or shape, which notwithstanding were very beautiful in the whole, and made the thing look rich and handsome enough.

As soon as he had thus equipped his queen, he put another upon himself, which was larger, and had this particular in its shape, that it covered his arms almost to his elbows, and was so made that it came round under the arm, and being fastened there with a string, made a kind of sleeve.

As the king's robe, or whatever it may be called, was longer, for it came down to his waist, so it had a great deal more gold about it, and
larger

larger pieces than that the queen wore. When their majesties had thus put on their robes, it may be guessed how glorious they looked, but especially the queen, who being a most charming beautiful creature, as said before, was much more so when glistening thus with gold. Our men looked very narrowly to observe whether there were any diamonds or pearls among their finery, but they could not perceive any.

The king and queen now withdrew for that evening, but their people did not leave our men so, for they thronged about them; and some brought them jars of the white liquor, some brought them roots, others fruits, some one thing some another; and our men gave every one of them some small matter or other, in proportion to what they brought. At last, there came four particular tall lusty men, with bows and arrows, but before they

came close up to our men they laid down their bows and arrows on the ground, and came forward with all the tokens of friendship they were able to make.

They had two youths with them, each of which led a tame fawn of pretty large growth; and when the men came up, they gave the two fawns to our men; who, in return, gave each of them a knife, and some strings of beads, and such toys as they had.

Our men observed, that all these men had little bits of gold, some of one shape and some of another, hanging at their ears; and when our men came to be familiar, they asked them as well as they could, where they found that stuff, and they made signs to the sand in the river; and then pointed towards that part of the country where our ships lay; which signified to our men, that the gold was, most of it, where we lay, not there where the

the king and queen resided. Nay, when our men pointed again to the river where they were, and went and took up some of the sand, as if they would look for gold in it, they made signs of laughing at it, and that there was nothing to be found there, but that it lay all the other way.

And yet two or three of the men, who, when the tide was out, went up the bank of the river, two or three miles upon the sands, peeping and trying the sands as they went; they found three or four little bits of pure gold, though not bigger than pins heads; but no doubt, farther up the country, they might have found more.

These four men seeing how fond our people were of the gold, made signs that they could fetch gold to them if they would give them such things as they liked; and ours again told them, they should have any thing they pleased; and, as

earnest, gave them some pieces of iron, and bits of glass of small value, both which they were much delighted with.

Early in the morning their four customers came again, and brought several men, who seemed to be servants, along with them, loaden with refreshments, such as the white water, mentioned above; which they brought in earthen pots very hard, made so by the heat of the sun. They brought also three small deer with them, and a kind of coney or rabbit, but larger; which our men were very glad of. But that which was above all the rest, they brought a good quantity of gold dust, that is to say, some in small lumps, some in bigger; and one of them had near a pound weight, wrapped up in a piece of coney-skin, which was all so very small, that it was like dust; which, as our men understood afterwards, was reckoned
little

little worth, because all the lumps had been picked out of it.

Our men, to be sure, were very willing to trade for this commodity, and therefore they brought out great variety of things to truck with them ; making signs to them to pick out what they liked ; but still keeping a reserve for the king and queen, whom they expected. Above all, they had made a reserve for the king of some extraordinary hatchets which they had not yet suffered to be seen ; with a hammer or two, and some drinking glasses, and the like, with some particular toys for the queen.

But they had variety enough left besides for the four men ; who, in short, bought so many trinkets and trifles, that our men not only got all the gold they brought, but the very pieces of gold out of their ears ; in return for which, our men gave them every one a pair of earrings, to hang about their ears,

with a fine drop ; some of green glafs, some red, some blue ; and they were wonderfully pleased with the exchange ; and went back, we may venture to fay, much richer in opinion, than they came.

As foon as these people had done their market, and indeed a little before, they perceived at a distance, the king and queen coming with a great retinue ; so they made signs to our men, that they must be gone ; and that they would not have the king know that they had been there.

I must confess, the relation of all this made me very much repent, that I had not happened to have put in there with the ships ; though indeed as the road lay open to the East and South winds, it might have been worse another way ; I mean, when the storm blew. However as it is, I must report this part, from the account given us by my men.

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When the king and queen came the second time, they were together, and dressed up, as our men supposed, with the utmost magnificence; having the fine feathered spangled things about their shoulders; and the king had over all his habit, a fine spotted robe of deer skins, neatly joined together; and which, as he managed it, covered him from head to foot; and in short, it was so very beautiful, that he really looked like a king with it.

When he came to our men, and the ceremony of their meeting was over, the king turning round, shewed them, that he had brought them stores of provisions; and indeed so he had; for he had at least fifty men attending him, loaden with roots, and oranges, and maize, and such things: in short he brought them above twenty thousand oranges; a great parcel of that fruit like a fig, which I mentioned a-

bove, and other fruits. After which another party followed, and brought twenty live deer ; and as many of their rabbits dead ; the latter are as big as our hares.

As they came up, the king made signs to our men to take them ; and our officer making signs to thank his Majesty, he ordered one of the queen's attendants to give him one of the feathered robes, such a one as the king himself had on ; and made mighty fine with lumps and tassels of gold, as the other. And a tawney lass advancing to him, offered to put it over his head ; but he took it in his hand and put it on himself ; and looked as like a jack pudding in it, as any one could desire ; for it made no figure at all upon him, compared to what it did upon the Indians.

When they had received all this, they could not but make a suitable return ; and therefore our officer caused

caused his reserve to be brought out; and first he gave his Majesty a dozen of very handsome drinking glasses of several sizes; with half a dozen of glass beakers, or cups, to the queen, for the same use. Then he gave the king a little hanger, and a belt to wear it by his side; and shewed him how to buckle it on and take it off; and how to draw it out, and put it in again.

This was such a present, and the king was so delighted with it, that our officer said, he believed the king, did nothing but draw it and put it up again, put it on and pull it off, for near two hours together.

Besides this, he gave the king three hatchets, and shewed him the uses of them; also two large hammers and a pair of very strong large sheers, particularly shewing him, that with those hammers, they might beat out the gold lumps which

which they found in the rivers, and with the sheers might cut the edges round, or into what shape they pleased, when they were beaten thin.

To the queen he gave six little knives, and a dozen small looking-glasses for her ladies; six pair of scissors, and a small box full of large needles; then he gave her some coarse brown thread, and shewed her how to thread the needle and sew any thing together with the thread; all which she admired exceedingly, and called her tawny maids of honour about her, that they might learn also. And whilst they were standing all together, our officer, to divert the king, sewed two of her women one to another by the lap of their waistcoats, or what else it might be called; and when they were a little surprized at it, and began (as he thought) to be a little uneasy, he took the scissors, and at one snap

snip set them at liberty again : Which passed for such an extraordinary piece of dexterity, that the king would needs have two of them sewed together again, on purpose to see it cut again : And then the king desired he might have a needle and thread himself, and a pair of scissors : Then he would sew some things together and cut them asunder again several times, and laugh most heartily at the ingenuity of it.

Besides the above things, they gave her majesty a pair of ear-rings to hang on her ears, the glass in them looking green like an emerald; a ring of silver with false stones in it, like a rose diamond ring, the middle stone red like a ruby; which she went presently and gave to the king; but our officer made signs that he had one that was bigger for the king, and accordingly gave the king one much larger : and now they had done giving presents, as

they

they thought, when the king made a sign to the queen, which she understood, and calling one of her women, she brought a small parcel, which the queen gave our officer into his hand; wherein was about eleven pound weight of gold-dust, but as before, no lumps in it.

Our men having thus finished their traffick, and being about to come away, they made signs to the king, that they would come again and bring him more fine things; at which the king smiled, and pointed to the gold, as if telling them he would have more of that for them when they came again.

Our men had now their expectations fully answered; and, as I said, had ended their traffick; and taking leave of the king, and all his retinue, retired to their shallop, the king and queen going away to their city as above; the wind blowing Northerly, they were seven days before they got down to us in the ship; during which time, they had
almost

almost famished the deer they had left; five of which they had kept to bring us alive, and yet they went two or three times on shore to get food for them by the way.

We were all glad to see them again, and I had a great deal of reason to be very well satisfied with the account of their traffick, though not much with their discovery, for they were not able to give us the least account whether the land was a continent or an island.

But let that be how it will, it is certainly a country yet unfrequented by any of the christian part of mankind, and perhaps, may ever be so, and yet may be as rich as any other part of the world yet discovered. The mountains in most of the islands, as well as of the main land in those parts abounding in gold or silver, and no question, as well worth searching after, as the coast of Guinea; where, though the quantity they find is considerable,

able, yet, it is at this time sought after by so many, and the negroes taught so well how to value it, that but a little is brought away at a time, and so much given for it, that computing the charge of the voyage, is oftentimes more than it is worth.

But though it is true, that what gold is found here is a great way off; yet, I am persuaded, such quantities are to be had, and the price given for it so very trifling, that it would be well worth searching for.

I reckon, that including the gold our shallop brought and what we got on shore where we lay, we brought away about twenty-four pound weight of gold: the expence of which, we could not value at above ten or eleven pounds in England put it all together; and reckoning for all the provisions we got there, which supplied us for twenty days after we came away.

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For while our shallop was making her visit thus to the royal family, &c. as is related, our men were not idle on shore, but partly by trade with the natives, and by washing the sands in the small rivers, we got such a quantity of gold, as well satisfied us for the stay we made.

We had been about eighteen days here when our shallop returned, and we stayed a week more trafficking with the people: and I am persuaded, if we had been in the mind to have settled there and stayed till now, we should have been very welcome to the people. We saw neither horse or cow, mule, ass, dog or cat, or any of our European animals, excepting that our men shot some wild ducks and wigeons exactly the same which we see in England, and very fat and good, but much easier to shoot than in England, having never been acquainted with the flash and noise of
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of guns as ours have been: we also found a sort of partridges in the country not much unlike our own, and a great many of the whistling plover the same with ours.

Though this month's stay was unexpected, yet we had no reason to think our time ill spent. However, we did not think we ought to lie here too long whatever we got: so we weighed and stood off to sea, steering still South East keeping the shore of this golden country in sight, till our men told us they found the land fall off to the South: then we steered away more Southerly for six or eight days, not losing sight of land all the time, till by an observation, we found we were in the latitude of thirty-four degrees and a half, South of the line; our meridian distance from the Ladrones, twenty-two degrees thirty minutes East; when a fresh gale of wind springing up at South and by East, obliged us to hale
close

close for that evening; at night it blew such a storm, that we were obliged to yield to the force of it, and go away afore it to the North or North by West till we came to the point of that land we past before; here the land tending to the West we ran in under the lee of a steep shore, and came to an anchor in twenty-five fathom water, being the same country we were in before. Here we rode very safe for five days, the wind continuing to blow very hard all the time from the South East.

My men would fain have had me gone ashore again, and trafficked with the people for more gold; but I, who was still in quest of farther discoveries, thought, I knew enough of this place, to tempt my friend, the merchant, whose favorite design was that of making new discoveries, to another voyage there, and that was enough for me. So I declined going on shore again, except,

except, that we sent our boats for a recruit of fresh water; and our men, while they were filling it, shot a brace of deer, as they were feeding by the side of a swamp or moist ground; and also some wild ducks. Here we set up a great wooden cross, and wrote on it, the names of our ships, and commanders; and the time that we came to an anchor there.

But we were obliged to a farther discovery of this country than we intended, by the following accident: We had unmoored early in the morning, and by eight o'clock were under sail; by ten we had doubled the point I mentioned above, and stood away South, keeping the shore on board, at the distance of about two leagues West.

The next day, the officer, who had been with the shallop, shewed us the opening or mouth where he put in, and where he had made his

his traffick with the king of the country, as said before.

We went on still for two days, and still we found the land extending itself South, till the third day in the morning, we were a little surprized to find ourselves, as it were, embayed; being in the bottom of a deep gulph, and the land appearing right a-head, distance about three leagues; the coast having turned away to the East and by South, very high land and mountainous; and the tops of some of the hills covered with snow.

Our second mate and the boatswain, upon this discovery, were for coming about, and sent to me for orders to make signals to the other ship and our brigantine, who were both a-head, to do the like; but I, who was willing to acquaint myself, as fully as I could, with the coast of the country, which I made no question I should have occasion to come to again, said, no, no,

no, I will see a little farther first. So I ran on, having an easy gale at North East and good weather, till I came within about a league and a half of the shore, when I found, that in the very bite or nook of the bay, there was a great inlet of water, which either must be a passage or strait between the land we had been on shore upon; which in that case, must be a great island, or that it must be the mouth of some extraordinary great river.

This was a discovery too great to be omitted, so I ordered the brigantine to stand in with an easy sail, and see what account could be had of the place; accordingly they stood in, and we followed about a league, and then lay by, waiting their signals. I had particularly ordered them to keep two boats ahead to sound the depth all the way, and they did so: and how it happened, we knew not, but on a sudden, we heard the sloop fire two
guns

guns first, and then one gun; the first was a signal to us to bring to, and come no farther; the next was a signal of distress; we immediately tacked to stand off, but found a strong current setting directly into the bite, and there not being wind enough for us to stem the current, we let go our anchors in twenty-two fathom water.

Immediately we manned out all the boats we had, great and small, to go and assist our brigantine, not knowing what distress she might be in; and they found that she had driven up, as we were like to have done, too far into the channel of a large river, the mouth of which, being very broad, had several shoals in it; and though she had dropped her anchor just upon notice, which the boats who were founding, gave her; yet she tailed a-ground upon a sand, and stuck fast; our men made no doubt but she would be lost, and began to think of saving the

provisions and ammunition out of her. The two long-boats accordingly began to lighten her; and first they took in her guns, and let out all her casks of water; then they began to take in her great shot and the heavy goods. But by this time, they found their mistake, for the current, which I mentioned, was nothing, but a strong tide of flood; which, the indraught of the river being considerable, ran up with a very great force; and, in something less than an hour, the brigantine floated again.

However she had stuck so long upon the sand, and the force of the current or tide had been so great, that she received considerable damage; and had a great deal of water in her hold. I immediately ordered out boats to row to the land, on both sides, to see, if they could find a good place to lay her on shore in; they obeyed the order, and found a very convenient harbour, in the mouth

mouth of a small river; which emptied itself into the great river, about two leagues within the foreland of it, on the North side; as the river Medway runs into the Thames, within the mouth of it, on the South side; only this was not so far up.

Here they ran in the sloop immediately, and the next day we came thither also; our boats having founded the whole breadth of the main river, and found a very good channel, half a league broad; having from seventeen to four and twenty fathom water all the way, and very good riding.

Here we found it absolutely necessary, to take every thing out of the brigantine, to search her bottom; for her lying on shore had strained her seams, and broke one of her floor timbers; and having hands enough, our men unloaded her in a very little time, and making a little dock for her, mended all the

damage in about ten days time. But seeing her in so good a condition, and the place so convenient, I resolved to have her whole bottom new calked and cleaned: that we made her as tight as she was when she first came off the stocks.

This I took for a good opportunity, to careen and clean our other ships too: for we had done little to them since we came from Madagascar. We found our Madagascar ship much worm-eaten in her sheathing, which we helped as well as we could, by new nailing, and by taking out some pieces of her sheathing, and putting new ones in. But as to our great ship, she was sheathed with lead, and had received no damage at all; only that she was very foul, which we remedied by scraping and cleaning, and new graving her quite over.

We were not all employed in this work, and therefore we had leisure to make the best of our time, for
the

the main work of new discoveries. And now I resolved to leave it no more to under officers, as I had done before, viz. when I gave the command of the shallop, that traded with the king and queen, as above, to a midship-man, which I was very sorry for, though the fellow did his business very well too; but I say, I resolved not to trust any one now, but myself.

In the first place, I took the two shallops, and went cross the mouth of the great river, to the South shore, to see what kind of a country was to be found there. For, as to the North side where we were, we found it to be much the same, with that part where we had been before; with this difference only; whereas in the other place, gold was to be had in plenty, but here was none we could find; nor did we perceive, that the people had any.

I found the mouth of this river

or inlet, to be about four leagues over, where I crossed it, which was about three leagues and a half within the inlet itself. But the weather being very calm, and the flood tide running sharp, we let our boat drive up in our crossing, about two leagues more; and we found the channel grew narrow so fast, that where we came to land, it was not full a league over; that about three leagues farther, we found it a mere river; not above as broad as the Thames at Black-wall.

We found it a steep shore, and observing a little creek very convenient for our purpose, we ran in our boats among some flags or rushes, and laid them as soft and as safe, as if they had been in a dock; we went all on shore immediately, except two men in each boat, left to guard our provisions.

We had for arms, every man a musquet, a pistol, and a cutlass;
and

and in each boat we had six half pikes to use, as we might have occasion. We had also every man a hatchet, hung in a little frog at his belt; and in each boat a broad axe and a saw.

We were furnished with strings of beads, bits of glass, glass rings, ear-rings, pearl necklaces, and such like jewelry ware, innumerable; besides knives, scissors, needles, pins, looking-glasses, drinking-glasses, and toys great plenty.

We were no sooner on shore, but we found people in abundance; for there were two or three small towns within a little way of the shore; and I suppose, we might have the more people about us, because, as we understood afterwards, they had seen us before, though we had not seen them.

We made signs to them, by putting our fingers to our mouths, and moving our chops, as if we were eating, that we wanted provisions;

and we hung up a white flag for a truce. They presently understood the first signal, but knew nothing of the last; and as to provisions, just as had been the case before, they brought us out roots and fruits, such as they eat themselves; but such as we had never seen before. Some of them, however, were very sweet and good, and when we boiled them they tasted much like an English parsnip; and we gave them strings of beads, pieces of glass, and such things as we remarked they were fond of.

We found the people, as I observed of the other, very inoffensive and sincere; not quarrelsome, nor treacherous, or mischievous in the least. And we took care, not so much as to let them know the use or manner of our fire-arms for a great while; neither was there one piece fired all the time we were among the other people, where we had so much gold: If there had,
it

it had been very probable, that they would have fled the country, in spite of all the good usage we could have been able to have shewn them.

The people where we were now, were not so rich in gold as those where we were before, but we found them much better stored with provisions; for besides deer, of which they had great plenty and variety, for they had some of a sort which I had never seen before, and besides an infinite number of those rabbits I have mentioned, which were as big as our hares, and which do not burrow in the ground as our rabbits do; they had also a kind of sheep, large, (like those of Peru, where they are used to carry burthens;) and very good. They have no wool nor horns, but are rather hairy like a goat; nor should I call them sheep, but that their flesh eats like mutton, and I know not what else to call them. The na-

tives called them Huttash; but what breed, or from what part of the world, or whether peculiar to this division alone, I know not.

However, their flesh was very agreeable, and they were fat and good; and as the Indians were mightily pleased with the price we paid them, and the goods we paid them in, they brought us more of these Huttashes than we knew what to do with; and as I can calculate the rate, I suppose we might have them for about eight pence, or sometimes not above six pence cost each; for they would give us one very thankfully for a string or two of small beads, and think themselves mighty well paid.

I found them so plentiful, and so easy to come at, that in short I sent fifty of them alive, tied neck and heels, in one of the shallops back to our ships, and ordered them to send their long-boats over for more; for though it was so little a way

way over, we did not find they had any of them on that side the river.

We did the Indians another piece of service, for if they gave us meat, we taught them to be cooks; for we shewed them how to roast it upon a stick or spit before the fire; whereas they ate all their meat before, either stewed in earthen pots over the fire, with herbs, such as we did not understand, or thrown on burning fuel of green wood; which always made it taste and stink of the smoak most intolerably.

We had a great deal of opportunity now to converse with the people on both sides the river; and we found them to be not only different nations, but of a differing speech, and differing customs. These on the South side, where I now was, seemed to be the best furnished with provisions, and to live in the greatest plenty. But those on the North side appeared

better cloathed, and a more civilized sort of people; and of the two seemed to have, in their countenances, something more agreeable.

However, as they were near neighbours, for the river only parted them, they were not very much unlike neither. That which seemed most strange to me, was, that we found they had little knowledge or communication one with another. They had indeed some boats in the river, but they were very small, and rather served to just waft them over, or to fish in them, than for any other use; for we found none that could carry above four men, and those very oddly made; partly as a canoe, by hollowing a tree, and partly by skins of beasts, dried and stuck on in such a manner, that they would paddle along at a great rate with them.

For want of understanding their language,

language, I could come at no knowledge of their religion or worship; nor did I see any idols among them, or any adoration paid to the sun or moon. But yet, as a confirmation that all nations, however barbarous, have some notion of a GOD, and some awe of a Superior Power; I observed here, that in making a bargain with one of the principal men (such I perceived him to be by the respect the rest shewed him) I say, being making a bargain with him, as well as could be done between two people who understood not one word of what either said, he had made signs to bring me twelve sheep the next morning, for some things that I was to deliver him of mine. I am sure the goods were not all of them of value sufficient to give me the least distrust; but when I gave him the goods without the sheep, being as I said to trust him till the next day, he called two men to him, and

and pointing to the goods that I had put into his hands, he tells upon his fingers twelve; letting them know, as I supposed, that he was to give me twelve sheep the next day in return, and so far, it appeared, they were to be witnesses of the agreement. He then placed his two hands, one upon each breast, with the fingers turned up towards his face, and holding them thus, he looked towards Heaven, with his face turned upward also, and with the utmost gravity, seriousness, and solemnity in his countenance, that ever I saw in any man's face in my life, he moved his lips as in the action of speaking. When he had continued in this posture about a quarter of a minute, he took the two men, and put them in the same attitude, and then pointed to me, and next to himself; by which I understood, first, that he solemnly swore to me, that he would bring the sheep
punctually

punctually and faithfully to me, and then brought the two men to be bail or security for the performance; that is to say, to oblige themselves to perform it, if he did not.

Doubtless, those people who have any notion of a God, must represent him to themselves as something superior, and something that sees, and hears, and knows what they say or do. Whether these people meant the sun or the moon, or the stars, or other visible object, or whatever else, I do not pretend to determine, but it is certain they understood it to be something to swear by; something that could bear witness of their engagement, and that being called to witness it, would resent their breach of promise if they made it. As to those, whose gods are monsters, and hideous shapes, frightful images, and terrible figures, the motive of their adoration being that
of

of mere terror, they have certainly gross ideas. But these people seem to act upon a more solid foundation, paying their reverence in a manner much more rational, and to something which it was much more reasonable to worship, as appeared in the solemnity of their countenances, and their behaviour in making a solemn promise.

We found those people cloathed, generally speaking, over their whole bodies, their heads, arms, legs, and feet excepted; but not so agreeably as those we mentioned above; and we found that the clothing of these were generally made of the skins of beasts, but very artfully put together; so that though they had neither needle or thread, yet they had the same plant as I mentioned before, the stalk of which would so strongly tie like a thread, that they peeled it off thicker or finer as they had occasion, and made use of it abundance of ways to tie and
twist,

twist, and make their clothes with it, as well for their occasion, as if it had been woven in a loom.

We found several of these people had little bits of gold about them; but when we made signs to them to know where they got it, and where it might be had; they made signs to us, pointing to the country on the North side of the river, so that we had it seems fallen upon the right Gold Coast in our first coming: They pointed indeed likewise to some very high mountains, which we saw at a great distance South West, so that it seems as if there was gold found that way also; but it appeared the people here had not much of it for their share.

The men here had bows and arrows, and they used them so dexterously, that a wild goose flying over our heads, one of the Indians shot it quite through with an arrow. One of our men was so provoked

voked to see them, as it were, to out-do him, that some time after, seeing a couple of ducks flying fair for a mark, he presented his piece, and shot them both flying.

I was very angry when I heard the gun, had I been there he had never got leave to fire: However, when it was done, I was pleased well enough to see the effect it had upon these poor innocent well-meaning people; at first it frightened them to the last degree, and I may truly say, it frightened them out of their senses, for they that were near it started so violently, that they fell down, and lay speechless for some time: Those that were farther off ran away, as if it had been some new kind of lightning and thunder, and came out of the earth instead of out of the clouds: But when they saw the two creatures fall down dead from above, and could see nothing that flew upward to kill them, they were perfectly
astonished,

astonished, and laid their two hands on their breasts, and looked up to heaven, as if they were saying their prayers, in the most solemn manner imaginable.

However, this accident gave them terrible ideas of us, and I was afraid at first they would run all away from us through fear: I therefore used them after it, with all the kindness and tenderness imaginable; gave them every day some trifle or other, which though of no value to me, they were exceedingly fond of; and we asked nothing of them in return but provisions, of which they had great plenty, and gave us enough every day to satisfy us: As for drink, they had none of the milky liquor which we had on the other part of the country; but they had a root which they steeped in water, and made it taste hot, as if pepper had been in it, which made it so strong, that though it would not make our men drunk,
it

it was worfe, for it made them nearly mad.

I was fo pleased with thefe people, that I came over to them every other day, and fome of our men lay on fhore, under a fail pitched for a tent; and they were fo fafe, that at laft they kept no watch, for the poor people neither thought any harm, or did any; and we never gave them the leaft occafion to apprehend any thing from us, at leaft, not till our men fired the gun, and that only let them know we were able to hurt them, without giving them the leaft fufpicion that we intended it; on the contrary, one of our men played an odd prank with a child, and fully fatisfied them that we would do them no harm. This man having feen one of their children, a little laughing fpeechlefs creature, of about two years old; the mother having gone from it a little way, on fome particular occafion, the fellow took it and led it

it home to the tent, and kept it there all night.

The next morning, he dressed it up with beads and jewels wonderful fine, a necklace about its neck, and bracelets of beads about its wrists, and several strings of beads wrapped up and tied in its hair, having fed it and laid it to sleep, and made much of it.

In this figure, he carried it up in his arms to the Indian's hut where he had found it, and where there had been a lamentable outcry for the child all the night, the mother crying and raising her neighbours, and in a most strange concern.

But when some of the women, her neighbours, saw the child brought back, there was a contrary extreme of joy; and the mother of it being fetched, she fell a jumping and dancing to see her child, but also making so many odd gestures, as that our men could not well know
for

for a while, whether she was pleased or not : The reason it seems, was, she did not know whether to hope or fear, for she did not know whether the man would give back her child or take it away again.

But when the man who had the child in his arms, had been told by signs, that this was the mother, he beckoned to have her come to him, and she came, but trembling for fear. Then he took the child, and kissing it two or three times, gave it her into her arms. But it is impossible to express by words, the agony the poor woman was in ; she took the child, and holding it in her arms, fixed her eyes upon it without motion, or as it were, without life for a good while ; then she took it and embraced it in the most passionate manner imaginable : When this was over, she fell a crying so vehemently, till she sobbed ; and all this while spoke not one word : When the crying had given
sufficient

sufficient vent to her passion, then she fell a dancing and making a strange odd noise, that cannot be described, and at last, she left the child and came back to the place where our men were, and to the man that brought her child, and as soon as she came up to him, she fell flat on the ground, as I have described above, the queen and her women did, and up again immediately; and thus she did three times, which it seems, was her acknowledgement to him for bringing it back.

The next day, for her gratitude did not end here, she came down to our tent, and brought with her two sheep with a great back burthen of roots of the kind, which I said, the natives steep in the water; and several fruits of the country, as much as two men who came with her could carry; and these she gave all to the man who had brought back her child. Our men

men were so moved, at the affectionate carriage of this poor woman to her infant, that they told me it brought tears from their eyes.

The man who received the present, took the woman and dressed her up almost as fine as he had done the child, and she went home like a kind of a queen among them.

We observed while we stayed here, that this was a most incomparable soil, that the earth was a fat loomy mould, that the herbage was strong, that the grass in some places was very flourishing and good, being as high as our mid-thigh; and that the air was neither very hot, nor as we believed very cold. We made an experiment of the fruitfulness of the soil, for we took some white pease, and digging the ground up with a spade, we sowed some, and before we went away, we saw them come out of the ground again, which was in about nine days.

We

We made signs to the people, that they should let them grow, and that if they gathered them, they were good to eat: We also sowed some English wheat, and let them know, as well as we could, what the use of them both was. But I make no doubt, but they have been better acquainted with both by this time, by an occasion which followed.

Our men were so fond of this place, and so pleased with the temper of the people, the fruitfulness of the soil, and agreeableness of the climate; that about twenty of them offered me, if I would give them my word to come again, or send to them to relieve and supply them with necessaries, they would go on shore and begin a colony, and live all their days there. Nay, after this, their number came up to three and thirty; or they offered, that if I would give them the sloop, and leave them a quantity of

goods, especially of such toys as they knew would oblige the people to use them well, they would stay at all hazards, not doubting, as they told me, but they should come to England again at last, with the sloop full of gold.

I was not very willing to encourage either of these proposals, because, as I told them, I might perhaps find a place as fit to settle a colony in before we came home, which was not at such an excessive distance from England, so that it was scarce possible ever to relieve them. This satisfied them pretty well, and they were content to give over the project; and yet, at last, which was more preposterous than all the rest, five of our men and a boy ran away from us and went on shore, and what sort of life they led, or how they managed, we could not tell, for they were too far off us to enquire after them again: They took a small yawl with
them,

them, and it seems had furnished themselves privately with some necessary things, especially tools, a grind-stone, a barrel of powder, some pease, some wheat, and some barley; so that it seems, they are resolved to plant there. I confess I pitied them, and when I had searched for them, and could not find them, I caused a letter to be written to them, and fixed it upon a post, at the place where our ship careened; and another letter on the South side, to tell them that in such a certain place, I had left other necessaries for them, which I did, made up in a large case of boards or planks, and covered with boards like a shed.

Here I left them hammocks for lodging; all sorts of tools for building them a house; spades, shovels, pick-axes, an axe, and two saws; with clothes, shoes, stockings, hats, shirts; and in a word, every thing that I could think of for their use;

and a large box of toys, beads, &c. to invite the natives to trade with them.

One of our men whom they had made privy to their design, but made him promise not to reveal it until they were gone, had told them, that he would persuade me if he could, to leave them a farther supply; and bade them come to the place after the ships were gone; and that they should find directions left for them on a piece of a board, or a letter from him set up upon a post. Thus they were well furnished with all things for immediate living.

I make no doubt, but they came to find these things, and since they had a mind to make trial of a wild retired life, they might shift very well. Nor would they want any thing but English women, to raise a new nation of English people, in a part of the world, that belongs neither to Europe, Asia, Africa, or America.

America. I also left them every man another gun, a cutlass, and a horn for powder; and I left two barrels of fine powder, and two pigs of lead for shot, in another chest by itself.

I doubt not, but the natives will bestow wives upon them, but what sort of a posterity they will make, I cannot foresee; for I do not find by enquiry, that the fellows had any great store of knowledge or religion in them, being all Madagascar men, as we called them; that is to say, pirates and rogues; so that for aught I know, there may be a generation of English heathens in an age or two more; though I left them five bibles, and six or seven prayer books, and good books of several sorts, that they might not want instruction, if they thought fit to make use of it for themselves or their progeny.

It is true, this is a country that is most remote from us, of any in

the yet discovered world, and consequently, it would be suggested as unprofitable to our commerce; but I have something to alledge in its defence, which will prove it to be infinitely more advantageous to England, than any of our East India trade can be, or than can be pretended for it. The reason is plain in a few words: Our East India trade is all carried on, or most part of it, by an exportation of bullion in specie; and a return of foreign manufactures or produce; and most of these manufactures also, either trifling and unnecessary in themselves; or such as are injurious to our own manufactures. The solid goods brought from India, which may be said to be necessary to us, and worth sending our money for, are but few; for example,

I. The returns, which I reckon trifling and unnecessary, are such as
China

China ware, coffee, tea, japan work, pictures, fans, skreens, &c.

II. The returns that are injurious to our manufactures, or growth of our own country, are printed calicoes, chintz, wrought filks, stuffs of herba and barks, block-tin, sugar, cotton, arrack, copper, and indico.

III. The necessary or useful things are pepper, salt petre, dying woods and dying earths, drugs, lacks, such as shel-lack, stick lack, &c. diamonds, some pearl, and raw silk.

For all these we carry nothing or very little but money; the innumerable nations of the Indies, China, &c. despising our manufactures, and filling us with their own.

On the contrary, the people in the Southern unknown countries, being first of all very numerous, and living in a temperate climate, which requires clothing, and having no

manufactures, or materials for manufactures of their own, would consequently take off a very great quantity of English woollen-manufactures, especially when civilized by our dwelling among them, and taught the manner of clothing themselves for their ease and convenience; and in return for these manufactures, it is evident we should have gold in specie, and perhaps spices; the best merchandise and return in the world.

I need say no more to excite adventurous heads to search out a country, by which such an improvement might be made, and which would be such an increase of, or addition to the wealth and commerce of our country.

Nor can it be objected here, that this nook of the country may not easily be found by any one but by us, who have been there before, and perhaps not by us again exactly; for not to enter into our journal
nal

nal of observations for their direction, I lay it down as a foundation, that whoever sailing over the South Seas, keeps a stated distance from the tropick to the latitude of fifty-six to sixty degrees, and steers Eastward towards the straits of Magellan, shall never fail to discover new worlds, new nations, and new inexhaustible funds of wealth and commerce, such as never were yet known to the merchants of Europe.

This is the true ocean called the South Sea; that part which we corruptly call so, can be so in no geographical account, or by any rule but by the mere imposition of custom, it being only originally called so, because they that sailed to it, were obliged to go round the southernmost part of America to come into it; whereas it ought indeed to be called the West Sea, as it lies on the West side of America, and washes the Western shore of that great continent for near eight thou-

land miles in length ; to wit, from fifty-six degrees South of the line, to seventy degrees North ; and how much farther, we know not : on this account, I think it ought to be called the American Ocean, rather than with such impropriety the South Sea.

But this part of the world where we were, may rightly be called the *South Sea*, by way of distinction, as it extends from India, round the globe, to India again ; and lies all South of the line (even for aught we know) to the very South pole, and which, except some interposition of land, whether islands or continent, really surrounds the South pole.

We were now in the very center or middle of this South Sea, being, as I have said, in the latitude of thirty-four degrees twenty minutes ; but having had such good success in our enquiry, or search after new continents, I resolved to steer to the
South

South and South East, as far as till we should be interrupted by land or ice, determining to search this unknown part of the globe, as far as Nature would permit, that I might be able to give some account to my employers, and some light to other people that might come that way, whether by accident or by design.

We had spent six and twenty days in this place, as well in repairing our brigantine and careening, and trimming our ship; we had not been so long, but that we did not resolve to careen our ships, till we had spent ten days about the brigantine, and then we found more work to do to the sheathing of the Madagascar ship than we expected.

We stored ourselves here with fresh provisions and water, but got nothing that we could properly call a store, except the flesh of about thirty deer, which we dryed in the sun, and which proved indifferently

good afterward, but not extraordinary.

We sailed again the six and twentieth day after we came in, having a fair wind at North and North North West, and a fresh gale, which held us five days without intermission; in which time, running away South and South South East, we reached the former latitude, where we had been; and meeting with nothing remarkable, we steered a little farther to the Eastward; but keeping a Southerly course still, till we came into the latitude of forty-one, and then going due East, with the wind at North and by West, we reckoned our meridian distance from the Ladrões, to be fifty degrees and a half.

In all this run we saw no land, so we halled two points more southerly, and went on for six or seven days more; when one of our men on the round top, cryed Land! It was a clear fine morning, and the
land

land he espyed being very high, it was found to be sixteen leagues distance; and the wind slackening, we could not get in that night, so we lay by till morning; when being fair with the land, we hoisted our boat to go and found the shore, as usual. The men rowed in close with the shore, and found a little cove, where there was good riding, but very deep water, being no less than sixty fathoms within cable's length of the shore.

We went in however, and after we were moored, sent our boat on shore to look for water, and what else the country afforded. Our men found water, and a good sort of country, but saw no inhabitants; and upon coasting a little both ways on the shore, they found it to be an island, and without people; but said, that about three leagues off to the Southward, there seemed to be a Terra Firma, or continent of land;

land; where, it was more likely, we should make some discovery.

The next day we filled water again, and shot some ducks, and the day after weighed, and stood over for the main, as we thought it to be; here using the same caution as we always had done, viz. of sounding the coast, we found a bold shore and very good anchor hold, in six and twenty to thirty fathoms.

When we came on shore, we found people, but of a quite different condition from those we had met with before, being wild, furious, and untractable; surprized at the sight of us, but not intimidated; preparing for battle, not for trade; and no sooner were we on shore but they saluted us with their bows and arrows. We made signals of truce to them, but they did not understand us; and we knew not what to offer them more, but the muzzles of our musquets; for we were resolved to see what sort
of

of folks they were, either by fair means or foul.

The first time, therefore, that they shot at our men with their bows and arrows, we returned the salute with our musquet-ball, and killed two of their foremost archers. We could easily perceive that the noise of our pieces terrified them; and the two men being killed, they knew not how, or with what, perfectly astonished them; so that they ran, as it were, clean out of the country; that is to say, clean out of our reach, for we could never set our eyes upon any of them after it. We coasted this place also, according to our usual customs; and to our great surprize, found it was an island too, though a large one; and that the main land lay still more to the Southward, about six leagues distance; so we resolved to look out farther, and accordingly set sail the next day, and anchored under the shore of this last land, which
we

we were persuaded was really the main

We went on shore here peaceably, for we neither saw any people, or the appearance of any; but a charming pleasant valley, of about ten or eleven miles long, and five or six miles broad; and then it was surrounded with mountains, which reached the full length; running parallel with the valley, and closing it in to the sea at both ends; so that it was a natural park; having the sea on the North side, and the mountains in a semi-circle round all the rest of it. These hills were so high, and the ways so untrod and so steep, that our men, who were curious enough to have climbed up to the top of them, could find no way that was practicable to get up; and after two or three attempts gave it over.

In this vale we found abundance of deer, and abundance of the same kind of sheep which I mentioned lately.

lately. We killed as many of both as we had occasion for ; and finding nothing here worth our staying any longer for, except that we saw something like wild rice growing here, we weighed after three days, and stood away still to the South.

We had not sailed above two days with little wind, and an easy sail, but we perceived this also was an island, though it must be a large one ; for by our account, we sailed near a hundred and fifty miles along the shore of it ; and we found the South part, a flat pleasant country enough ; and our men said they saw people upon it, on the South side ; but we went not on shore there any more.

Steering due South from hence in quest of the main land, we went on eleven days more, and saw nothing significant ; and upon a fair observation, I found we were in the latitude of seven and forty degrees and eight minutes South ; then I altered

altered my course a little to the Eastward, finding no land, and the weather very cold, and going on with a fresh gale at South South West for four days, we made land again ; but it was now to the East North East, so that we were gotten, as we may say, beyond it.

We fell in with this land in the evening, so that it was not perceived till we were within half a league of it, which very much alarmed us ; the land being low, and having found our error, we brought too, and stood off and on till morning, when we saw the shore lie, as it were, under our larboard-bow, within a mile and a quarter distance ; the land low, but the sea deep and soft ground. We came to an anchor immediately, and sent our shallops to sound the shore, and the men found very good riding in a little bay, under the shelter of two points of land, one of which made a kind of hook, under which
we

we lay secure from all winds that could blow, in seventeen fathoms good ground. Here we had a good observation, and found ourselves in the latitude of fifty degrees twenty-one minutes. Our next work was to find water, and our boats going on shore, found plenty of good water, and some cattle; but told us they could give no account what the cattle were, or what they were like. In searching the coast, we soon found this was an island also, about eleven leagues in length from North West to South East, what breadth we could not tell. Our men also, saw some signs of inhabitants; the next day six men appeared at a distance, but would take notice of no signals, and fled as soon as our men advanced. Our people went up to the place where they lay, and found they had made a fire of some dry wood; that they had laid there, as they supposed all night, though
without

without covering. They found two pieces of old ragged skins of deer, which looked as if worn out by some that had used them for cloathing, and one piece of a skin of some other creature which had been rolled up into a cap for the head; also, a couple of arrows of about four feet long, very thick, and made of a hard and heavy wood; so they must have very large and strong bows to shoot such arrows, and consequently must be men of an uncommon strength.

Our men wandered about the country three or four days, with less caution than the nature of their situation required; for they were not among a people of an innocent inoffensive temper here, as before, but among a wild, untractable nation, that perhaps had never seen creatures in their own likeness before, and had no thought of themselves but of being killed and destroyed, and consequently had no thought

thought of those they had seen but as of enemies, whom they must either destroy, if they were able, or escape from them if they were not. However, we got no harm, neither would the natives ever appear, to accept any kindneſſes from us.

We had no buſineſs here, after we found what ſort of people they were who inhabited this place: ſo, as ſoon as we had taken in freſh water, and caught ſome fiſh, of which we found good ſtore, in the bay or harbour where we rode, we prepared to be gone. — Here we found the firſt oyſters that we ſaw any where in the South Seas; and as our men found them but the day before we were to ſail, they made great intreaty to me, to let them ſtay one day to get a quantity on board, they being very refreshing, as well as nourishing to our men.

But I was more eaſily prevailed with to ſtay, when Captain Merlotte brought me out of one oyſter that

that he happened to open, a true Oriental pearl, so large and so fine, that I sold it, since my return, for three and fifty pounds.

After taking this oyster, I ordered all our boats out a dredging; and in two days time so great a quantity there was, that our men had taken above fifty bushels, most of them very large. But we were surprized and disappointed, when, at the opening all those oysters, we found not one pearl, small or great, of any kind whatever; so we concluded, that the other was a lucky hit only, and that perhaps there might not be any more of that kind in these seas.

While we were musing on the oddness of this accident, the boatswain of the Madagascar ship, whose boat's crew had brought in the great oyster in which the pearl was found, and who had been examining the matter, came and told me, that it was true that their boat had brought
in

in the oyſter, and that it was before they went out a dredging in the ofſing, but that their boat took theſe oyſters on the Weſt ſide of the iſland, where they had been ſhoaring, as they called it; that is to ſay, coaſting along the ſhore, to ſee if they could find any thing worth their labour; but that afterwards the boats went a dredging in the mouth of the bay where we rode; and where finding good ſtore of oyſters, they had gone no farther.

Upon this intelligence we ordered all hands to dredging again, on the Weſt ſide of the iſland. This was in a narrow channel, between this iſland and a little cluster of iſlands, which we found together extended Weſt; the channel where our men fiſhed might be about a league over, ſomething better, and the water about five to ſeven fathom deep.

They came home well tired, and ill pleaſed, having taken nothing
near

near so many oysters as before. But I was much better pleased, when in opening them, we found a hundred and fifty eight pearls, of the most perfect colour, and of extraordinary shape and size; besides double the number of a less size, and irregular shape.

This quickened our diligence, and encouraged our men; for I promised the men two pieces of eight to each man above his pay, if I got any considerable quantity of pearl. Upon this they spread themselves among the islands, and fished for a whole week; and I got such a quantity of pearl, as made it very well worth our while; and besides that, I had reason to believe, the men, at least the officers who went with them, concealed a considerable quantity among themselves; which, however, I did not think fit to enquire very strictly after at that time.

Had we been nearer home, and not at so very great an expence as
three

three ships, and so many men at victuals and wages; or had we been where we might have left one of our vessels to fish, and have come to them again, we would not have given it over while there had been an oyster left in the sea; or at least, that we could come at: But as things stood, I resolved to give it over, and put to sea.

But when I was just giving orders, Captain Merlotte came to me and told me, that all the officers in the three ships had joined together to make an humble petition to me; which was, that I would give them one day to fish for themselves; that the men had promised, that if I would consent, they would work for them gratis; and likewise, if they gained any thing considerable, they would account for as much out of their wages, as should defray the ships expence, victuals and wages, for the day.

This was so small a request, that
 VOL. II. E I readily

I readily consented to it ; and told them, I would give them three days, provided they were willing to give the men a largess, as I had done, in proportion to their gain. This they agreed to, and to work they went ; but whether it was that the fellows worked with a better will, or that the officers gave them more liquor, or that they found a new bank of oysters, which had not been found out before ; but so it was, that the officers got as many pearls, and some of extraordinary size and beauty, as they afterwards sold when they came to Peru, for three thousand two hundred and seventeen pieces of eight.

When they had done this, I told them it was but right, that as they had made so good a purchase for themselves by the labour of the men, the men should have the consideration which I had proposed to them. But now I would make another condition with them, that
we

we would stay three days more, and whatever was caught in these three days, should be shared among the men at the first port we came at, where they could be sold; that the men who had now been out so long, might have something to buy clothes and liquors, without anticipating their wages: But then I made a condition with the men too, viz. that whatever was taken, they should deposit it in my hands, and with the joint trust of three men of their own choosing, one out of each ship, and that we would sell the pearl, and I should divide the money among them equally, that so there might be no quarrelling or discontent, and that none of them should play any part of it away: These engagements they all came willingly into, and away they went a dredging, relieving one another punctually: so that in the whole three days, every man work-

ed an equal share of hours with the rest.

But the poor men had not so good luck for themselves, as they had for their officers. However, they got a considerable quantity, and some very fine ones; among the rest they had two, in the exact shape of a pear, and very exactly matched; and these they would needs make me a present of, because I had been so kind to them, to make the proposal for them: I would have paid for them two hundred pieces of eight, but *One and all*, they would not be paid; and would certainly have been very much troubled, if I had not accepted of them; and yet the success of the men was not so small, but joined with the two pieces of eight a man, which I allowed them on the ships account, and the like allowance the officers made them, and the produce of their own purchase they divided afterwards, about

bout fifteen pieces of eight a man, which was a great encouragement to them.

Thus we spent in the whole, near three weeks here, and called these the Pearl Islands, though we had given no names to any of the places before. We were the more surprized with this unexpected booty, because we all thought it very unusual to find pearl of so excellent a kind in such a latitude as that of forty-nine to fifty; but it seems there are riches yet unknown in those parts of the world, where they have never been yet expected; and I have been told, by those who pretend to give a reason for it, that if there was any land directly under the poles, either South or North, there would be found gold of a fineness more than double to any that was ever yet found in the world: And this is the reason they say, why the magnetick influence directs to the poles, that being the

center of the most pure metals; and why the needle touched with the load-stone or magnet, always points to the North or South pole. But I do not recommend this as a certainty, because it is evident, no demonstration could ever be arrived at, nor could any creature reach to that particular spot of land under the pole, if such there should be, those lands being surrounded with mountains of snow, and frozen seas which never thaw, and are utterly impassible, either for ships or men.

But to return to our voyage, having thus spent as I have said, three weeks on this unexpected expedition; we set sail, and as I was almost satisfied with the discoveries we had made, I was for bending my course due East, and so directly for the south part of America; but the winds now blowing fresh from the North West, and good weather, I took the occasion as a favourable summons,

summons, to keep still on Southing as well as East, till we came into the latitude of fifty-fix; when our men who had been all along, a warm weather voyage, began to be pinched very much with the cold, and particularly complained, that they had not clothes sufficient for it.

But they were brought to be content by force; for the wind continuing at North and North North West, and blowing very hard, we were obliged to keep on our course farther South indeed, than I ever intended; and one of the men swore we should be driven to the South pole; indeed we rather ran afore it, than kept our course; and in this run, we suffered the extremest cold, though a Northerly wind in those latitudes is the warm wind, as a Southerly is here; but it was attended with rain and snow, and both freezing violently. At length one of our men cried out land, and

our men began to rejoice; but I was quite of a differing opinion, and my fears were but too just; for as soon as ever he cried land, and that I asked him in what quarter, and he answered due South which was almost right a-head, I gave orders to wear the ship, and put her about immediately; not doubting, but instead of land, I should find it a mountain of ice, and so it was; and it was happy for us that we had a stout ship under us, for it blew a fret of wind. However, the ship came very well about, though when she filled again, we found the ice not half a league distance under our stern.

As I happened to be the headmost ship, I fired two guns to give notice to our other vessels, for that was our signal to come about, but that which was very uneasy to me, the weather was hazy, and they were both out of sight; which was the first time that we lost one another

ther in those seas: However, being both to windward, and within hearing of my guns, they took the warning, and came about with more leifure, and less hazard than I had done.

I stood away now to the Eastward, firing guns continually, that they might know which way to follow; and they answered me duly, to let me know that they heard me.

It was our good fortune also, that it was day when we were so near running into this danger. In the afternoon the wind abated, and the weather cleared up: We then called a council, and resolved to go no farther South being then in the latitude of sixty-seven South, which I suppose, is the farthest Southern latitude that any European ship ever saw in those seas.

That night it froze extremely hard, and the wind veering to the South West it was the severest cold that ever I felt in my life; a barrel

or cask of water, which stood on the deck, froze intirely in one night, into one lump, and our cooper, knocking off the hoops from the cask, took it to pieces, and the barrel of ice stood by itself, in the true shape of the vessel it had been in. This wind was however favourable to our deliverance, for we stood away now North East and North East by North making fresh way with a fair wind.

We made no more land, till we came into the latitude of sixty-two, when we saw some islands at a great distance, on both sides of us; we believed them to be islands, because we saw many of them, with large openings between. But we were all so willing to get into a warmer climate, that we did not incline to put in any where, till having run thus fifteen days, and the wind still holding Southerly with small alteration and clear weather, we could easily perceive the climate to change,
and

and the weather grow milder. And here taking an observation, I found we were in the latitude of fifty and a half, and that our meridian distance from the Ladrones West, was eighty-seven degrees, being almost one semi-diameter of the globe, so that we could not be far from the coast of America, which was my next design, and indeed, the chief design of the whole voyage.

On this expectation, I changed my course a little, and went away North by East till by an observation, I found myself in forty-seven degrees seven minutes, and then standing away East, for about eleven days more, we made the tops of the Andes the great mountains of Chili in South America to our great joy and satisfaction, though at a very great distance.

We found our distance from the shore, not less than twenty leagues, the mountains being so very high; and our next business was to con-

sider, what part of the Andes it must be, and to what port we should direct ourselves first. Upon the whole, we found we were too much to the South still, and resolved to make directly for the river or port of Valdivia, or Baldivia, as it is sometimes called, in the latitude of forty degrees; so we stood away to the North. The next day this pacifick quiet sea, as it is termed, shewed us a very frowning rough countenance, and proved the very extreme of a contrary disposition. For it blew a storm of wind at East by South and drove us off the coast again, but it abated again for a day or two; and then for six days together, it blew excessive hard, almost all at East; so that I found no possibility of getting into the shore: And besides, I found that the winds came off that mountainous country in squalls; and that the nearer we came to the hills, the gusts were the more violent:

lent: So I resolved to run for the island of Juan Fernandes to refresh ourselves there until the weather was settled; and besides we wanted fresh water very much.

The little that the wind stood Southerly helped me in this run, and we came in five days more fair with the island, to our great joy, and brought all our ships to an anchor as near the watering place as is usual, where we rode easy, though the wind continued to blow very hard; and being, I say, now about the middle of our voyage, I shall break off my account here, as of the first part of my work, and begin again at our departure from hence.

It is true, we had got over much the greater run, as to length of way; but the most important part of our voyage was yet to come, and we had no inconsiderable length to run neither, for as we purposed to sail North, the height of Panama,

ma, in the latitude of nine degrees North and back again by Cape Horn, in the latitude of, perhaps, sixty degrees South, and that we were now in forty degrees South; those three added to the run, from Cape Horn home to England, made a prodigious length, as will be seen by this following account; in which, also the meridian distances are not at all reckoned, though those also are very great.

From Juan Fernandes to the
line - - - 30

From the line to Panama 9

From Panama to Cape Horn,
including the distance we
take in going round - 60

From Cape Horn to the line
again in the North seas 60

From the line to England 51

210 Deg.

N. B. There must be deducted
from

from this account, the distance from Lima to Panama, because we did not go up to Panama, as we intended to do.

By this account we had almost thirty degrees to run more than a diameter of the globe, besides our distance West, where we then were, from the meridian of England, whither we were to go; which, if exactly calculated, is above seventy degrees, take it from the island of Juan Fernandes.

But to return a little to our stay in this place, for that belongs to this part of my account, and of which I must make a few short observations.

It was scarce possible to restrain Englishmen, after so long beating the sea, from going on shore, when they came to such a place of refreshment as this; nor indeed was it reasonable to restrain them, considering how we all might be supposed

posed to stand in need of refreshment; and considering that here was no length of ground for the men to wander in, no liquors to come at to distract them with their excess; and, which was still more, no women to disorder or debauch them: We all knew their chief exercise would be hunting goats for their subsistence; and we knew also, that, however they wanted the benefit of fresh provision, they must work hard to catch it, before they could taste the sweet of it. Upon these considerations, I say, our ships being well moored, and riding safe, we restrained none of them, except a proper number to take care of each ship; and those were taken out by lot, and then had their turn also to go on shore some days afterwards, and in the mean time, had both fresh water and fresh meat sent them immediately, and that in sufficient quantity, to their satisfaction. As soon as we were
on

on shore, and had looked about us, we began first with getting some fresh water, for we greatly wanted it; then carrying a small cask of arrack on shore, I made a quantity of it be put into a whole butt of water before I let our men drink a drop; so correcting a little the chilness of the water, because I knew they would drink an immoderate quantity, and endanger their healths: And the effect answered my care; for those who drank at the spring, where they took in the water, before I got this butt filled, and before the arrack was put into it, fell into swoonings and faint sweats, having gorged themselves too much with the cool water; and two or three, I thought, would have died; but our surgeons took such care of them, that they recovered.

While this was doing, others cut down branches of trees, and built us two large booths, and five or six smaller;

smaller; and we made two tents with some old sails: And thus we encamped, as if we had been to take up our dwelling, and intended to people the island.

At the same time, others of our men began to look out for goats, for it may be believed, we all longed for a meal of fresh meat. They were a little too hasty at their work at first; for firing among the first goats they came at, when there were but a few men together, they frightened the creatures, and they ran all away into holes, and among the rocks and places where we could not find them: So that for that day they made little of it. However, sending for more firemen, they made a shift to bring in seventeen goats the same day; whereof we sent five on board the ships, and feasted with the rest on shore. But the next day the men went to work in another manner, and with better conduct; for as we had
had

had hands enough, and fire-arms enough, they spread themselves so far, that they, as it were, surrounded the creatures; and so driving them out of their fastnesses and retreats, they had no occasion to shoot, for the goats could not get from them, and they took them every where with their hands, except some of the old he-goats, which were so surly, that they would stand at bay, and rise at them, and would not be taken; and these, as being old also, and as they thought, good for nothing, they let go.

In short, so many of our men went on shore, and these divided themselves into so many little parties, and plyed their work so hard, and had such good luck, that I told them, it looked as if they had made a general massacre of the goats, rather than a hunting.

Our men also might be said, not to refresh themselves, but to feast themselves

themselves here with fresh provisions; for, though we stayed but thirteen days, yet we killed three hundred and seventy goats; and our men who were on board, were very merrily employed, most assuredly, for they might be said to do very little but roast and stew, and broil and fry from morning to night; it was indeed an exceeding good supply to them, for they had been extremely fatigued with the last part of their voyage, and had tasted of no fresh provisions for six weeks before.

This made them hunt the goats with the more eagerness; and indeed, they surrounded them so dexterously, and followed them so nimbly, that, notwithstanding the difficulties of the rocks, yet the goats could hardly ever escape them. Here our men found also very good fish, and some few tortoises, or turtles, as the seamen call them; but they valued them not, when they had

had such plenty of venison: Also they found some very good herbs in the island, which they boiled with the goats flesh, and which made their broth very favourable and comfortable, and withal very healing and good against the scurvy, which in those climates Englishmen are very subject to.

We were now come to the month of April 1715, having spent almost eight months in this trafficking wandering voyage, from Manilla hither. And whoever shall follow the same, or a like track, if ever such a thing shall happen, will do well to make a year of it, and may find it very well worth while.

I doubt not, but there are many undiscovered parts of land to the West, and to the South also, of the first shore, of which I mentioned, that we stayed trafficking for little bits of gold. And though it is true, that such a traffick, as I have given an account of, is very advantageous

vantageous in itself, and worth while to look for ; especially after having had a good market for an outwardbound European cargo, according to the pattern of ours at the Phillipines ; and which, by the way, they need not miss ; I say, as this trade for gold would be well worth while, so had we gone the best way, and taken a course more to the South from Manilla, not going away East to the Ladrones, we should certainly have fallen in with a country from the coast of New Guinea, where we might have found plenty of spices, as well as of gold.

For why may we not be allowed to suppose, that the country on the same continent, and in the same latitude, should produce the same growth ? Especially considering them situated, as it may be called, in the neighbourhood of one another.

Had we then proceeded this way,
no

no question, but we might have fixed on some place for a settlement, either English or French; whence a correspondence being established with Europe, either by Cape Horn East, or the Cape De Bona Esperance West, as we had thought fit; they might have found as great a production of the nutmegs, and the cloves, as at Banda, and Ternate; or have made those productions have been planted there for the future, where, no doubt, they would grow and thrive as well, as they do now in the Moluccos.

But we spun out too much time for the business we did; and tho' we might, as above, discover new places, and get very well too, yet we did nothing in comparison of what we might be supposed to have done, had we made the discovery more our business.

I cannot doubt also, but that when we stood away South, it was
too

too late; for had we stood into the latitude of fixty-seven at first, as we did afterwards, I have good reason to believe, that those islands, which we call the Moluccos, and which lie so thick, and for so great an extent, go on yet further, and it is scarce to be imagined, that they break off just with Gillotto.

This I call a mistake in me; namely, that I stood away East from the Phillipines to the Ladrones, before I had gone any length to the South.

But to come to the course set down in this work, namely, South East and by East from the said Ladrones, the places I have taken notice of, as these, do not, in my opinion, appear to be inconsiderable, and of no value; so, had we searched farther into them, I doubt not but there are greater things to be discovered; and perhaps, a much greater extent of land also. For as I have but just, as it were, described

scribed the shell, having made no search after the kernel; it is more than probable, that, within the country, there might be greater discoveries made, of immense value too. For even as I observed several times, whenever we found any people who had gold, and asked them, as well as by signs we could make them understand, they always pointed to the rivers, and the mountains, which lays farther up the country, and which we never made any discovery of, having little in our view but the getting what little share of gold the poor people had about them. Whereas had we taken possession of the place, and left a number of men sufficient to support themselves, in making a farther search, I cannot doubt but there must be a great deal of that, of which the unactive Indians had gotten but a little.

Nor had we one skilful man a-
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mong us, to view the face of the earth, and see what treasure of choice vegetables might be there. We had indeed six very good surgeons, and one of them, whom we took in among the Madagascar men, was a man of very great reading and judgment ; but he acknowledged, he had no skill in botanicks, having never made it his study.

But to say the truth, our Doctors themselves (so we call the surgeons at sea) were so taken up in their traffick for gold, that they had no leisure to think of any thing else. They did indeed pick up some shells, and some strange figured skeletons of fishes and small beasts, and other things, which they esteemed as rarities ; but they never went a simpling, as we call it, or to enquire what the earth brought forth that was rare, and not to be found any where else.

I think likewise it is worth observing,

serving, how the people we met with, where, it is probable, no ships, much less European ships, had ever been, and where they had never conversed with enemies, or with nations accustomed to steal and plunder; I say, the people who lived thus, had no fire, no rage in their looks; no jealous fears of strangers doing them harm, and consequently no desire to do harm to others. They had bows and arrows indeed, but it was rather to kill the deer and fowls and to provide themselves with food, than to offend their enemies; for they had none.

When therefore removing from thence, we came to other and different nations, who were ravenous and mischievous, treacherous and fierce, we concluded they had conversed with other nations, either by going to them, or their vessels coming there. And to confirm me

in this opinion, I found these fierce false Indians had canoes and boats, some of one kind and some of another ; by which, perhaps, they conversed with the islands or other nations near them ; and that they also received ships and vessels from other nations, by which they had several occasions to be upon their guard, and learned the treacherous and cruel part from others, which Nature gave them no ideas of before.

As the natives of these places were tractable and courteous, so they would be made easily subservient and assistant to any European nation that would come to make settlements among them, especially if those European nations treated them with humanity and courtesy ; for I have made it a general observation concerning the natural disposition of all the savage nations that ever I met with, that if they
are

are once but really obliged, they will be always very faithful.

But it is our people, I mean the Europeans, who, by breaking faith with them, teach them ingratitude, and inure them to treat their new comers with breach of faith, and with cruelty and barbarity. If you once win them by kindness, and doing them good, I mean at first, before they are taught to be rogues by example, they will generally be honest, and be kind also to the uttermost of their power.

It is to be observed, that it has been the opinion of all the sailors, who have navigated those parts of the world, that farther South there are great tracks of undiscovered land; and some have told us they have seen them, and have called them by such and such names, as particularly the Isles of Solomon, of which yet, we can read of nobody that ever went on shore on them, or that could give any ac-

count of them ; except such as are romantick, and not to be depended upon.

But what has been the reason why we have hitherto had nothing but guesses made at those things, and that all that has been said of such lands, has been imperfect ? The reason, if I may speak my opinion, has been, because it is such a prodigious run from the coast of America to the islands of the Ladrones, that the few people who have performed it, never durst venture to go out of the way of the trade winds, lest they should not be able to subsist for want of water and provisions ; and this is particularly the case in the voyage from the coast of America only.

Whereas, to go the way which I have marked out, had we seen a necessity, and that there was no land to be found to the South of the tropick, for a supply of provisions

fions and fresh water, it was evident we could have gone back again from one place to another, and have been constantly supplied; and this makes it certain also, that it cannot be reasonably undertaken by a ship going from the East, I mean the coast of America, to the West: But from the West, viz. the Spice Islands, to America West, it may be adventured with ease, as I have shewn.

It is true, that William Cornelius Van Schouton and Francis la Mair, who first found the passage into the South Sea by Cape Horn, and not to pass the straits of Magellan; I say, they did keep to the southward of the tropick, and pass in part, the same way I have here given an account of, by as their journals, which I have by me at this time, is apparent.

And it is as true also, that they did meet with many islands and unknown shores in those seas, where

they got refreshment, especially fresh water: Perhaps some of the places were the same I have described in this voyage; but why they never pursued that discovery, or marked those islands and places they got refreshments at, so that others, in quest of business, might have touched at them, and have received the like benefit, that I can give no account of.

I cannot help being of opinion, let our map makers place them where they will, that those islands, where we so successfully fished for oysters, or rather for pearl, are the same which the ancient geographers have called Solomon's Islands; and though they are so far South, the riches of them may not be the less; nor are they more out of the way. On the contrary, they lie directly in the track which our navigators would take, if they thought fit either to go or come between

between Europe and the East Indies, seeing they that come about Cape Horn, seldom go less South than the latitude of sixty-three or sixty-four degrees ; and these islands, as I have said, lie in the latitude of forty to forty-eight South, and extend themselves near one hundred and sixty leagues in breadth from North to South.

Without doubt, those islands would make a very noble settlement, in order to victual and relieve the European merchants, in so long a run as they have to make ; and when this trade came to be more frequented, the calling of those ships there would enrich the islands, as the English at St Helena are enriched by the refreshing which the East India ships find, that meet there.

But to return to our present situation, at Juan Fernandes ; the refreshment which our men found

here, greatly encouraged and revived them; and the broths and stewings which we made of the goats flesh which we killed there, than which nothing could be wholesomer, restored all our sick men; so that we lost but two men in our whole passage from the East Indies; and had lost but eight men in our whole voyage from England, except I should reckon those five men and a boy to be lost, which ran away from us in the country among the Indians, as I have already related.

I should have added, that we careened and cleaned our ships here, and put ourselves into a posture for whatever adventures might happen; for as I resolved upon a trading voyage upon the coast of Chili and Peru, and a cruising voyage also, as it might happen; so I resolved also, to put our ships into a condition for both; as occasion should present.

Our

Our men were nimble, at this work especially, having been so well refreshed and heartened up by their extraordinary supply of fresh meats, and the additions of good broths and soups which they fed on every day in the island, and with which, they were supplied without any manner of limitation, all the time they were at work.

This I say being their case, they got the Madagascar ship halled down, and her bottom washed and tallowed, and she was as clean as when she first came off the stocks, in five days time; and she was rigged and all set to rights, and fit for sailing in two more.

The great ship was not so soon fitted, nor was I in so much haste, for I had a design in my head, which I had not yet communicated to any body, and that was to send the Madagascar ship a cruising, as soon as she was fitted up: Ac-

cordingly I say, the fifth day she was ready, and I managed it so, that the captain of the Madagascar ship, openly before all the men, made the motion; as if it had been his own project, and desired I would let him go and try his fortune, as he called it.

I seemed unwilling at first, but he added to his importunity, that he and all his crew were desirous, if they made any purchase, it should be divided among all the crews in shares, according as they were shipped; that if it was provisions the captain should buy it at half price, for the use of the whole, and the money to be shared.

Upon hearing his proposals, which were esteemed very just, and the men all agreeing, I gave consent, and so he had my orders and instructions, and leave to be out twelve days on his cruise, and away he went. His ship was an excellent

lent failor, as has been said, and being now a very clean vessel, I thought he might speak with any other, or get away from her, if he pleased; by the way, I ordered him to put out none but French colours.

He cruised a week without seeing a sail, and stood in quite to the Spanish shore in one place, but in that he was wrong. The eighth day, giving over all expectations, he stood off again to sea, and the next morning he spied a sail, which proved to be a large Spanish ship, and that seemed to stand down directly upon him, which a little checked his forwardness; however, he kept on his course, when the Spaniards seeing him plainer than, probably, he had done at first, tacked, and crouding all the sail he could carry, stood in for the shore.

The Spaniard was a good failor, but our ship plainly gained upon her,

her, and in the evening came almost up with her; when he saw the land, though at a great distance, he was loth to be seen chacing her, from the shore; however, he followed, and night coming on, the Spaniard changed his course, thinking to get away, but as the moon was just rising, our men, who resolved to keep her in sight, if possible, perceived her, and stretched after her with all the canvas they could lay on.

This chace held till about midnight, when our ship coming up with her, took her, after a little dispute; they pretended, at first, to have nothing on board but timber, which they were carrying, as they said, to some port for the building of ships: But our men had the secret to make the Spaniards confess their treasure, if they had any; so that after some hard words with the Spanish commander, he confessed.

feffed he had some money on board, which on our men's promise of good usage, he afterwards very honestly delivered, and which might amount to about sixteen thousand pieces of eight.

But he had what we were very glad of besides, (viz.) about two hundred great jars of very good wheat flower, a large quantity of oil, and some casks of sweet-meats, all which was to us very good prize.

But now our difficulty was, what we should do with the ship, and with the Spaniards; and this was so real a difficulty, that I began to wish he had not taken her, lest her being suffered to go, she should alarm the country, or if detained, discover us all.

It was not above one day beyond his orders, that we had the pleasure of seeing the captain of the Madagascar come into the road, with his
prize

prize in tow, and the flower and oil was a very good booty to us; but upon second and better thoughts, we brought the Spaniards to a fair treaty, and, which was more difficult, brought all our men to consent to it. The case was this. Knowing what I proposed to myself to do, namely, to trade all the way up the Spanish coast, and to pass for French ships, I knew the taking this Spanish ship would betray us all, unless I resolved to sink the ship and murder all the men, so I came to a resolution, of talking with the Spanish captain, and making terms with him, which I soon made him very glad to accept of.

First I pretended to be very angry with the captain of the Madagascar ship, and ordered him to be put under confinement, for having made a prize of his Catholick Majesty's subjects, we being subjects to the king of France, who was in
perfect

perfect peace with the king of Spain.

Then I told him, that I would restore him his ship and all his money, and as to his flower and oil, which the men had fallen greedily upon, having a want of it, I would pay him the full value in money for it all, and for any other loss he had sustained, only that I would oblige him to lie in the road at the island where we were, till we returned from our voyage to Lima, whither we were going to trade, for which lying, I also agreed to pay him demorage for his ship, after the rate of eight hundred pieces of eight per month, and if I returned not in four months, he was to be at his liberty to go.

The captain who thought himself a prisoner and undone, readily embraced this offer; and so we secured his ship till our return, and there we found him very honestly

nestly at an anchor, of which I shall give a farther account in its place.

We were now, as I have said, much about the middle of our voyage, at least as I had intended it, and having stored ourselves with every thing the place afforded, we got ready to proceed, for we had, as it were, dwelt here near a fortnight.

By this time the weather was good again, and we stood away to the South East for the port of Baldivia, as above, and reached to the mouth of the harbour in twelve days sail.

I was now to change faces again, and Captain Merlotte appeared as captain, all things being transacted in his name, and French captains were put into the brigantine, and into the Madagascar ship also. The first thing the captain did, was to send a civil message to the Spanish governor,

governor, to acquaint him, that being come into those seas as friends, under his most Christian Majesty's commission, and with the King of Spain's permission, we desired to be treated as allies, and to be allowed to take water and wood, and to buy such refreshments as we wanted, for which we would pay ready money; also we carried French colours, but took not the least notice of our intention to trade with them.

We received a very civil answer from the governor (viz.) That being the king of France's subjects, and that they were in alliance with us, we were very welcome to wood and water, and any provision the place would afford; and that our persons should be safe, and in perfect liberty to go on shore, but that he could not allow any of our men to lie on shore, it being express in his orders, that he should not permit

mit any nation, not actually in commission from the king of Spain, to come on shore, and stay there, not even one night; and that this was done to prevent disorders.

We answered, that we were content with that order, seeing we did not desire our men should go on shore to stay there, we not being able to answer for any misbehaviour, which was frequent among seamen.

While we continued here, several Spaniards came on board and visited us, and we often went on shore on the same pretence; but our super-cargo, who understood his business too well not to make use of the occasion, presently let the Spaniards see, that he had a great cargo of goods to dispose of; they as freely took the hint, and let him know that they had money enough to pay for whatever they bought; so they fell to work, and they ought

bought East India and China silks, Japan ware, China ware, spice and something of every thing we had. We knew we should not sell all our cargo here, nor any extraordinary quantity; but we knew, on the other hand, that what we did sell here, we should sell for one hundred pounds per cent. extraordinary: I mean, more than we should sell for at Lima, or any other ports on that side, and so we did; for here we sold a bottle of arrack for four pieces of eight; a pound of cloves for five pieces of eight, and a pound of nutmegs for six pieces of eight; and the like of other things.

They would gladly have purchased some European goods, and especially English cloth and baize; but as we had, indeed, very few such things left, so we were not willing they should see them, that they might not have any suspicion
of

of our being Englishmen, and English ships, which would soon have put an end to all our commerce.

While we lay here trafficking with the Spaniards, I set some of my men to work, to converse among the native Chilians or Indians, as we call them, of the country, and several things they learned of them according to the instructions which I gave them; for example; first, I understood by them, that the country people who do not live among the Spaniards, have a mortal aversion to them; that it is rivetted in their minds by tradition, from father to son, ever since the wars which had formerly been among them; and that though they did not now carry on those wars, yet the animosity remained, and the pride and cruel haughty temper of the Spaniards were such still to those of the country people, who came under their government, as
make

make that aversion continually increase. They let us know, that if any nation in the world would but come in, and assist them against the Spaniards, and support them in their rising against them, they would soon rid their hands of the whole nation. This was to the purpose, exactly, as to what I wanted to know.

I then ordered particular enquiry to be made, whether the mountains of Andes (which are, indeed, prodigious to look at, and so frightful for their height, that it is not to be thought of without some horror) were in any places passable? What country there was beyond them? And whether any of their people had gone over and knew the passages?

The Indians concurred with the Spaniards in this (for our men enquired of both) that though the Andes were to be supposed, indeed,

deed, to be the highest mountains in the world, and that, generally speaking, they were impassable, yet that there had been passages found by the vales among the mountains; where, with fetching several compasses and windings, partly on the hills, and partly in the valleys, men went, with a great deal of ease and safety, quite through or over, call it as we will, to the other named the East side, and as often returned again.

Some of the more knowing Indians or Chilians went farther than this, and when our men enquired after the manner, situation and produce of the country on the other side, they told them, that when they passed the mountains from that part of the country, they went chiefly to fetch cattle, and kill deer, of which there were great numbers in that part of the land; but that when they went
from

from St. Jago, they turned away North some leagues, when they came to a town called St. Antonio de los Vejos, or, the Town of St. Anthony and the old Men; that there was a great river at that city, from whence they found means to go down to the Rio de la Plata, and so to the Buenos Ayres; and that they frequently carried thither great sums of money in Chilian gold, and brought back European goods from thence.

I had all I wanted now, and bade my men say no more to them on that subject, and only to tell them, that they would come back, and travel a little that way to see the country. The people appeared very well pleased with this intelligence, and answered, that if they would do so, they should find some, as well Spaniards as Chilians, who would be guides to them through the hills; also assuring them, that

they would find the hills very practicable, and the people, as they went along, very ready to assist and furnish them with whatever they found they wanted, especially if they come to know that they were not Spaniards, or that they would protect them from the Spaniards, which would be the most agreeable thing to them in the world; for it seems many of the nations of the Chilians, had been driven to live among the hills, and some even beyond them, to avoid the cruelty and tyranny of the Spaniards, especially in the beginning of their planting in that country.

The next enquiry I ordered them to make, was, whether it was possible to pass those hills with horses, or mules, or any kind of carriages? And they assured them, they might travel with mules, and even with horses also, but rather with mules; but as to carriages, such as carts,
or

or waggons, they allowed, that was not practicable. They assured us, that some of those ways through the hills were much frequented; and that there were towns, or villages rather, of people, to be found in the valleys between the said hills; some of which villages were very large, and the soil very rich and fruitful, bearing sufficient provisions for the inhabitants, who were very numerous. They added, that the people were not much inclined to live in towns as the Spaniards do, but that they lived scattered up and down the country, as they were guided by the goodness of the land; that they lived very secure and unguarded, never offering any injury to one another, nor fearing injury from any, but the Spaniards.

I caused these enquiries to be made with the utmost prudence and caution, so that the Spaniards

had not the least suspicion of our design; and thus having finished our traffick, and taken in water and provisions, we sailed from Baldivia, having settled a little correspondence there with two Spaniards, who were very faithful to us; and with two Chilian Indians, whom we had, in a particular manner, engaged, and whom, to make sure of, we took along with us; and having spent about thirteen days here, and taken the value of about six thousand pieces of eight in silver and gold, but most of it in gold, we set sail.

Our next port was the bay of the Conception: Here, having two or three men on board, who were well acquainted with the coast, we ran boldly into the bay, and came to an anchor in that which they call the bite, or little bay, under the island Quiriquina; and from thence we sent our
boat

boat, with French mariners to row, and a French cockswain, with a letter to the Spanish governor, from captain Merlotte. Our pretence was always the same as before, that we had his most Christian Majesty's commission, &c. and that we desired liberty to wood and water, and to buy provisions, having been a very long voyage, and the like.

Under these pretences, we lay here about ten days, and drove a very considerable trade for such goods as we were sure they wanted; and having taken about the value of eight thousand pieces of eight, we set sail for the port or river that goes up to St. Jago, where we expected a very good market, being distant from the Conception about sixty-five leagues.

St. Jago is the capital city of Chili, and stands twelve leagues

within the land; there are two ports, which are made use of to carry on the traffick of this place, viz. R. de Ropocalmo, and port de Valparaifo. We were bound to the last, as being the only port for ships of burthen, and where there is security from bad weather.

We found means here, without going up to the city of St. Jago, to have merchants enough to come down to us; for this being a very rich city, and full of money, we found all our valuable silks of China, our Atlafs's, China damasks, fat-tins, &c. were very much valued, and very much wanted, and no price was too high for us to ask for them; for, in a word, the Spanish ladies, who, for pride, do not come behind any in the world, whatever they do for beauty, were so eager for those fine things, that, almost, any reasonable quantity might have been sold there; but the truth is,
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we had an unreasonable quantity, and therefore, as we had other markets to go to, we did not let them know what a great stock of goods we had, but took care they had something of every thing they wanted: We likewise found our spices were an excellent commodity in those parts, and sold for a great profit too, as, indeed, every thing else did, as is said above.

We found it very easy to sell here to the value of one hundred and thirty thousand pieces of eight, in all sorts of china and East India goods; for still, though we had some of the English cargo loose, we let none of it be seen. We took most of the money in gold uncoined, which is got out of the mountains in great quantities, and of which we shall have occasion to speak more hereafter.

Our next trading port was Coquimbo, a small town, but a good

port: Here we went in without ceremony, and upon the same foot, of being French, were well received, traded underhand with the Spanish merchants, and got letters to some other merchants at Guasco, a port in a little bay about fifteen leagues North from Coquimbo.

From hence, to the port of Copiapo, is twenty-five leagues: Here we found a very good port, though no trading town or city; but the country being well inhabited, we found means to acquaint some of the principal Spaniards in the country, of what we were, and (with which they were pleased well enough) that they might trade with us for such things, which it was easy to see, they gave double price for to the merchants who came from Lima, and other places: This brought them to us with so much eagerness, that though they bought for their own use, not for sale,

sale, yet they came furnished with orders, perhaps, for two or three families together, and being generally rich, would frequently lay out six hundred, or eight hundred pieces of eight a man; so that we had a most excellent market here, and took above thirty thousand pieces of eight; that is to say, the value of it, for they still paid all in gold.

Here we had opportunity to get a quantity of good flower, or wheat meal, of very good European wheat; that is to say, of that sort of wheat; and withal, had good biscuit baked on shore, so that now we got a large recruit of bread, and our men began to make puddings, and lived very comfortably; we likewise got good sugar at the Ingenioes, or sugar-mills, of which there were several here, and the farther North we went, their number increased, for

we were now in the latitude of twenty-eight degrees two minutes South.

We had but one port now, of any consequence, that we intended to touch at, until we came to the main place we aimed at, which was Lima, and this was about two thirds of the way thither; I mean Porto Rica, or Arica; which is in the latitude of eighteen degrees, or thereabouts: The people were very shy of us here, as having been much upon their guard for some years past, for fear of Buccaniers, and English privateers; but when they understood we were French, and our French captain sent two recommendations to them from a merchant at St. Jago, they were then very well satisfied, and we had full freedom of commerce here also.

From hence we came the height of Lima, the capital port, if not the capital

capital city, of Peru, lying in the latitude of twelve degrees thirty minutes. Had we made the least pretence of trading here, we should, at least, have had soldiers put on board our ships to have prevented it, and the people would have been forbidden to trade with us upon pain of death; but captain Merlotte having brought letters to a principal merchant of Lima, he instructed him how to manage himself at his first coming into that port; which was to ride without the town of Callao, out of the command of the puntals or castles there, and not to come any nearer, upon what occasion soever, and then to leave the rest to him.

Upon this the merchant applied himself to the governor for leave to go on board the French ship at Callao; but the governor understood him, and would not grant it by any means. The reason was,

because there had been such a general complaint by the merchants from Carthagena, Porto Bello, and other places, of the great trade carried on here with French ships from Europe, to the destruction of the merchants, and to the ruin of the trade of the galleons, that the governor, or viceroy of Peru, had forbid the French ships landing any goods.

Now, though this made our traffick impracticable at Lima itself, yet it did, by no means, hinder the merchants trading with us under cover, &c. but especially when they came to understand, that we were not loaden from Europe, with baize, long ells, druggets, broad cloth, serges, stuffs, stockings, hats, and such like woollen manufactures of France, England, &c. but that our cargo was the same with that of the Manilla ships at Acapulca; and that we were loaden
with

with callicoes, muslins, fine wrought China silks, damasks, Japan wares, China wares, spices, &c. there was then no with-holding them, but they came on board us in the night with canoes, and staying all day, went on shore again in the night, carrying their goods to different places, where they knew they could convey them on shore without difficulty.

In this manner we traded publicly enough, not much unlike the manner of our trade at the Manillas; and here we effectually cleared ourselves of our whole cargo, as well English goods, as Indian, to an immense sum. Here our men, officers as well as seamen, sold their fine pearl, particularly one large parcel, containing one hundred and seventy-three very fine pearls, but of different sizes, which a priest bought, as we were told, to dress up the image of the blessed Virgin Mary, in one of their churches.

In

In a word, we came to a balance here; for we sold every thing that we had the least intention to part with; the chief things we kept in reserve were, some bales of English goods; also all the remainder of our beads and bugles, toys, iron-work, knives, scissors, hatchets, needles, pins, glass ware, and such things as we knew the Spaniards did not regard, and which might be useful in our farther designs, of which my head was yet very full. Those, I say, we kept still.

Here likewise, we sold our brigantine, which though an excellent sea-boat, as may well be supposed, considering the long voyage we had made in her, was yet so worm-eaten in her bottom, that unless we would have new sheathed her, and perhaps, shifted most of her planks too, which would have taken up a great deal of time; she was by no means fit to have gone any farther,

ther, at least, not so long a run as we had now to make, (viz) round the whole Southern part of America; and where we should find no port to put in at (I mean, where we should have been able to have got any thing done for the repair of a ship) until we had come home to England.

It was proposed here, to have gone to the governor or viceroy of Peru, and have obtained his licence or pass, to have traversed the Isthmus of America, from port St. Maria, to the river of Darien; this we could easily have obtained under the character that we then bore (viz.) of having the king of France's commission, and had we been really all French, I believe I should have done it; but as we were so many Englishmen, and as such were then at open war with Spain, I did not think it a safe adventure, I mean, not a rational
adventure,

adventure, especially considering what a considerable treasure we had with us.

On the other hand, as we were now a strong body of able seamen, and had two stout ships under us, we had no reason to apprehend either the toil or the danger of a voyage round Cape Horn, after which, we should be in a very good condition to make the rest of our voyage to England; whereas, if we travelled over the Isthmus of America, we should be all like a company of free-booters and buccaneers, loose and unshipped, and should perhaps, run some one way, and some another, among the log-wood cutters at the bay of Campeachy, and other places, to get passage, some to Jamaica, and some to New England; and, which was worse than all, should be exposed to a thousand dangers on account of the

the treasure we had with us, perhaps even to that of murdering and robbing one another ; and as Captain Merlotte said, who was really a Frenchman, it were much more eligible for us, as French, or if we had been such, to have gone up to Acapulco, and there to sell our ships, and get licence to travel to Mexico, and then to have got the viceroy's assiento, to have come to Europe in the galleons ; but as we were so many Englishmen, it was impracticable ; or seamen also being protestants, such as seamen generally are, and bold mad fellows, they would never have carried on a disguise, both of their nation and of their religion, for so long a time as it would have been necessary to do for such a journey and voyage.

But besides all these difficulties, I had other projects in my head, which made me against all the proposals

propofals of paffing by land to the North Sea; otherwife, had I refolved it, I fhould not have much concerned myfelf about obtaining a licence from the Spaniards; for as we were a fufficient number of men to have forced our way, we fhould not much have ftood upon their giving us leave, or not giving us leave to go.

But as I have faid, my views lay another way, and my head had been long working upon the difcourfe my men had had with the Spaniards at Baldivia; I frequently talked with the two Chilian Indians which I had on board, and who fpoke Spanifh pretty well, and who we had taught to fpeak a little Englifh.

I had taken care that they fhould have all the good ufage imaginable on board; I had given them each a very good fuit of cloaths, made
by

by our taylor, but after their own manner, with each of them a baize cloak ; and had given them hats, shoes, stockings, and every thing they desired, and they were mighty well pleased, and I talked very freely with them about the passage of the mountains, for that was now my grand design.

While I was coming up the Chilian shore, as you have heard, that is to say, at St. Jago, at the Conception, at Arica, and even at Lima itself, we enquired on all occasions, into the situation of the country, the manner of travelling, and what kind of country it was beyond the mountains ; and we found them all agreeing in the same story ; and that passing the mountains of Les Cordelieras, for so they call them in Peru, though it was the same ridge of hills as we call the Andes, was no strange thing ; that there were not one or
two,

two, but a great many places found out, where they passed as well with horses and mules, as on foot, and even some with carriages; and in particular they told us at Lima, that from Potosi, and the towns thereabouts, there was a long valley, which ran for one hundred and sixty leagues in length Southward, and South East, and that it continued until the hills parting, it opened into the main level country on the other side; and that there were several rivers which began in that great valley, and which all of them run away to the South and the South East, and afterwards, went away East and East North East, and so fell into the great Rio de la Plata, and emptied themselves into the North Seas; and that merchants travelled to those rivers, and then went down in boats as far as the town

or

or city of the Ascension, and the Buenos Ayres.

This was very satisfying you may be sure, especially to hear them agree in it, that the Andes were to be passed (though passing them hereabouts, where I knew the main land from the West shore, where we now were, must be at least one thousand five hundred miles broad) was no part of my project; but I laid up all these things in my mind, and resolved to go away to the South again, and act as I should see cause.

We were now got into a very hot climate, and whatever was the cause, my men began to grow very sickly, and that to such a degree, that I was once afraid we had got the plague among us; but our surgeons, who we all call doctors at sea, assured me, there was nothing of that among them, and

and yet we buried seventeen men here, and had between twenty and thirty more sick, and as I thought, dangerously too.

In this extremity, for I was really very much concerned about it, one of my doctors came to me, and told me, he had been at the city (that is at Lima) to buy some drugs and medicines to recruit his chest, and he had fallen into company with an Irish jesuit, who he found was an extraordinary good physician, and that he had had some discourse with him about our sick men, and he believed, for a good word or two, he could persuade him to come and visit them.

I was very loth to consent to it, and said to the surgeon, if he is an Irishman he speaks English, and he will presently perceive, that we are all Englishmen, and so we shall be betrayed; all our designs will be blown up at once, and
our

our farther measures be all broken, and therefore I would not consent: This I did not speak from the fear of any hurt they could have done me by force, for I had no reason to value that, being able to have fought my way clear out of their seas, if I had been put to it; but as I had traded all the way by stratagem, and had many considerable views still behind, I was unwilling to be disappointed by the discovery of my schemes; or that the Spaniards should know upon what a double foundation I acted, and how I was a French ally and merchant, or an English enemy and privateer, just as I pleased, and as opportunity should offer; in which case they would have been sure to have trappanned me if possible, under pretence of the former, and have used me, if they ever should get an advantage over me, as one of the latter.

This

This made me very cautious, and I had good reason for it too, and yet the sickness and danger of my men pressed me very hard to have the advice of a good physician, if it was possible; and especially to be satisfied whether it was really the plague or no; for I was very uneasy about that.

But my surgeon told me, that as to my apprehension of discovery, he would undertake to prevent it by this method: First he said, he found that the Irishman did not understand French at all, and so I had nothing to do but to order, That when he came on board, as little English should be spoke in his hearing as possible; and this was not difficult, for almost all our men had a little French at their tongue's end, by having so many Frenchmen on board of them; others had the Levant Jargon, which they call
Lingua

Lingua Frank, so that if they had but due caution, it could not be suddenly perceived what countrymen they were.

Besides this, the surgeon ordered, that as soon as the Padre came on board, he should be surrounded with French seamen only, some of which should be ordered to follow him from place to place, and chop in with their nimble tongues, upon some occasion or other, so that he should hear French spoken wherever he turned himself.

Upon this, which, indeed, appeared very easy to be done, I agreed to let the doctor come on board, and accordingly the surgeon brought him the next day, where Captain Merlotte received him in the cabin, and treated him very handsomely, but nothing was spoken but French or Spanish; and the surgeon who had pretended

himself to be an Irishman, acted as interpreter between the doctor and us.

Here we told him the case of our men that were sick ; some of them, indeed, were French, and others that could speak French were instructed to speak to him, as if they could speak no other tongue, and those the surgeon interpreted ; others who were English, were called Irishmen, and two or three were allowed to be English seamen, picked up in the East Indies, as we had seamen, we told him, of all nations.

The matter in short was so carried, that the good man, for such, I really think he was, had no manner of suspicion ; and to do him justice, he was an admirable physician, and did our men a great deal of good ; for all of them, excepting three, recovered under his hands, and those three had recovered,

vered, if they had not, like madmen, drank large quantities of punch when they were almost well, and by their intemperance inflamed their blood, and thereby thrown themselves back again into their fever, and put themselves, as the Padre said of them, out of the reach of medicine.

We treated this man of art with a great deal of respect, made him some very handsome presents, and particularly such as he could not come at in the country where he was; besides which, I ordered he should have the value of one hundred dollars in gold given him; but he, on the other hand, thanking Captain Merlotte for his bounty, would have no money; but he accepted a present of some linen, a few handkerchiefs, some nutmegs, and a piece of black baize, most of which however, he afterwards said, he

made presents of again in the city among some of his acquaintance.

But he had a farther design in his head, which on a future day, he communicated in confidence to the surgeon I have mentioned, who conversed with him, and by him to me, and which was to him, indeed, of the highest importance. The case was this :

He took our surgeon on shore with him one day from the Madagascar ship, where he had been with him to visit some of our sick men, and drinking a glass of wine with him, he told him he had a favour to ask of him, and a thing to reveal to him in confidence, which was of the utmost consequence to himself, though of no great value to him, (the surgeon) and if he would promise the utmost secrecy to him on his faith and honour, he would put his life into his hands. “ For, Signior,” said he, “ it will be no other, nor would

would any thing less than my life pay for it, if you should discover it to any of the people here, or any where else on this coast."

The surgeon was a very honest man, and carried indeed, the index of it in his face, and the Padre said afterwards, he inclined to put this confidence in him, because he thought he saw something of an honest man in his very countenance. After so frank a beginning, the surgeon made no scruple to tell him, That seeing he inclined to treat him with such confidence, and to put a trust of so great importance in him, he would give him all the assurance in his power, that he would be as faithful to him as it was possible to be to himself; and that the secret should never go out of his mouth to any one in the world, but to such, and at such time, as he should consent to and direct. In short, he

used so many solemn protestations, that the Padre made no scruple to trust him with the secret, which, indeed, was no less than putting his life into his hands: The case was this.

He told him, he had heard them talk of going to Ireland in their return, and as he had been thirty years out of his own country, in such a remote part of the world, where it was never likely that he should ever see it again, the notion he had entertained, that this ship was going thither, and might set him on shore there, that he might once more see his native country, and his family, and friends, had filled his mind with such a surprising joy, that he could no longer contain himself; and that therefore, if he would procure leave of the captain, that he might come privately on board, and take his passage home, he would willingly

lingly pay whatever the captain should desire of him; but that it must be done with the greatest secrecy imaginable, or else he was ruined; for that if he should be discovered and stopped, he should be confined in the Jesuits house there, as long as he lived, without hope of redemption.

The surgeon told him, the thing was easy to be done, if he would give him leave to acquaint one man in the ship with it, which was not Captain Merlotte, but a certain Englishman, who was a considerable person in the ship, without whom the captain did nothing, and who would be more secure to trust, by far, than Captain Merlotte. The Padre told him, that without asking him any reasons, since he had put his life and liberty in his hands, he would trust him with the ma-

H 4 nage-

nagement of the whole, in whatever way he chose to conduct it.

The surgeon accordingly brought him on board to me, and making a confidence of the whole matter to me, I turned to the Padre, and told him in English, giving him my hand, that I would be under all the engagements and promises of secrecy, that our surgeon had been in, for his security and satisfaction; that he had merited too well of us to wish him any ill; and, in short, that the whole ship should be engaged for his security. That as to his coming on board and bringing any thing off that belonged to him, he must take his own measures, and answer to himself for the success; but that after he was on board, we would sink the ship under him, or blow her aloft in the air, before we would deliver him up, on any account whatever.

He

He was so pleased with my frank way of talking to him, that he told me he would put his life into my hands, with the same freedom as he had done before with my surgeon; so we began to concert measures for his coming on board with secrecy.

He told us there was no need of any proposals, for he would acquaint the head of the house, that he intended to go on board the French ship in the road, and to go to St. Jago, where he had several times been in the same manner; and that as they had not the least suspicion of him, he was very well satisfied, that they would make no scruple of it.

But his mistake in this might have been his ruin; for though had it been a Spanish ship, they would not have mistrusted him, yet when he named the French ship in the road of Callao, they

began to question him very smartly about it: Upon which he was obliged to tell them, that since they were doubtful of him, he would not go at all, telling them withal, that it was hard to suspect him who had been so faithful to his vows, as to reside for near thirty years among them, when he might frequently have made an escape from them, if he had been so disposed. So for three or four days he made no appearance of going at all; but having had private notice from me the evening before we sailed, he found means to get out of their hands, came down to Callao on a mule in the night, and our surgeon lying ready with our boat about half a league from the town, as by appointment, he took him on board, with a negro his servant, and brought him safe to the ship: Nor had we received him on board half an hour,

hour, but being unmoored and ready to sail, we put out to sea and carried him clear off.

He made his excuses to me, that he was come away naked, according to his profession; that he had purposed to have furnished himself with some provisions for the voyage, but that the unexpected suspicions of the head of their college or house, had obliged him to come away in a manner that would not admit of it; for that he might rather be said to have made his escape, than to have been come fairly off.

I told him he was very welcome; (and indeed so he was, for he had been already more worth to us than ten times his passage came to) and that he should be entered into immediate pay, as physician to both the ships, which I was sure none of our surgeons would repine at, but rather be glad of; and accordingly

I immediately ordered him a cabin, with a very good apartment adjoining to it, and appointed him to eat in my own mess whenever he pleased, or by himself, on his particular days, when he thought proper.

And now it was impossible to conceal from him, that we were indeed an English ship, and that I was the captain in chief; except, as has been said, upon occasion of coming to any particular town of Spain. I let him know, I had a commission to make prize of the Spaniards, and appear their open enemy, but that I had chosen to treat them as friends, in a way of commerce, as he had seen. He admired much the moderation I had used, and how I had avoided enriching myself with the spoil, as I might have done; and he made me many compliments upon that head, which I excused hearing, and

and begged him to forbear. I told him we were Christians, and as we had made a very prosperous voyage, I was resolved not to do any honest men the least injustice, if I could avoid it.

But I must observe here, that I did not enter immediately into all this confidence with him neither, nor all at once, neither did I let him into any part of it, but under the same solemn engagements of secrecy that he had laid upon us, nor till I was come above eighty leagues South from Lima.

The first thing I took the freedom to speak to him upon, was this: Finding his habit a little offensive to our rude seamen, I took him into the cabin the very next day after we came to sea, and told him, that I was obliged to mention to him what I knew he would soon perceive; namely, that we were all Protestants, except three
or

or four of the Frenchmen ; and I did not know how agreeable that might be to him. He answered, he was not at all offended with that part ; that it was none of his business to enquire into any one's opinion, any farther than they gave him leave ; that if it was his business to cure the souls of men on shore, his business on board was to cure their bodies ; and as for the rest, he would exercise no other function than that of a physician on board the ship, without my leave.

I told him, that was very obliging ; but that then, for his own sake, I had a proposal to make him, which was, whether it would be disagreeable to him to lay aside the habit of a religious, and put on that of a gentleman, so to accommodate himself the more easily to the men on board, who, perhaps, might be rude to him in his habit,
 seamen.

seamen being not always men of the most refined manners.

He thanked me very sincerely; told me he had been in England as well as in Ireland; and that he went dressed there as a gentleman, and was ready to do so now, if I thought fit, to avoid giving any offence; and added, that he chose to do so. But then, smiling, said, he was at a great loss, for he had no cloaths. I bade him take no care about that, for I would furnish him; and immediately we dressed him up like an Englishman, in a suit of very good cloaths, which belonged to one of our midshipmen who died; I gave him also a good wig and a sword, and he presently appeared upon the quarter-deck like a grave physician, and was called Doctor.

From that minute, by whose contrivance we knew not, it went current among the seamen, that the
Spanish

Spanish doctor was an Englishman, and a Protestant, and only had put on the other habit to disguise himself, and make his escape to us: and this was so universally believed, that it held to the last day of the whole voyage; for as soon as I knew it, I took care that no body should ever contradict it: And as for the doctor himself, when he first heard of it, he said, nothing could be more to his satisfaction, and that he would take care to confirm the opinion of it among all the men, as far as lay in his power.

However, the doctor earnestly desired we would be mindful, that as he should never offer to go on shore, whatever port we came to afterwards, none of the Spaniards might by enquiry, hear, upon any occasion, of his being on board our ship; but above all, that none of our men, the officers especially, would

would ever come so much in reach of the Spaniards on shore, as to put it into their power to seize upon them by reprisal, and so oblige us to deliver him up by way of exchange.

I went so far with him, and so did Captain Merlotte also, as to assure him, that if the Spaniards should, by any stratagem, or by force, get any of our men; nay, though it were ourselves, into their hands, yet he should upon no conditions whatever be delivered up. And indeed, for this very reason we were very shy of going on shore at all; and as we had really no business any where but just for water and fresh provisions, which we also had taken in a very good store of at Lima, so we put in no where at all in the coast of Peru, because there we might have been more particularly liable to the impertinencies of the Spaniards enquiry:
as

as to force, we were furnished not to be in the least apprehensive of that.

Being thus, I say, resolved to have no more to do with the coast of Peru, we stood off to sea, and the first land we made was a little unfrequented island in the latitude of seventeen degrees thirteen minutes, where our men went on shore in the boats three or four times to catch tortoises, or turtles, being the first we had met with since we came from the East Indies. And here they took so many, and had such a prodigious quantity of eggs out of them, that the whole company of both ships lived on them till within four or five days of our coming to the island of Juan Fernandes, which was our next port. Some of these tortoises were so large and so heavy, that no single man could turn them, and some-

sometimes as much as four men could carry to the boats.

We met with some bad weather after this, which blew us off to sea, the wind blowing very hard at the South East; but it was not so great a wind as to endanger us, though we lost sight of one another more in this storm, than we had done in all our voyage. However, we were none of us in any great concern for it now, because we had agreed before, that if we should lose one another, we should make the best of our way to the island of Juan Fernandes: and this we observed now so directly, that both of us shaping our course for the island, as soon as the storm abated, came in sight of one another long before we came thither, which proved very agreeable to us all.

We were, including the time of the storm, two hundred and eighteen

teen days from Lima to the island of Juan Fernandes, having most of the time cross contrary winds, and more bad weather than is usual in those seas: However, we were all in good condition, both ships and men.

Here we fell to the old trade of hunting of goats. And here our new doctor set some of our men to simpling, that is to say, to gather some physical herbs, which he let them see afterwards were very well worth their while. Our surgeons assisted, and saw the plants, but had never observed the same kind in England. They gave me the names of them; and it is the only discovery in all my travels which I have not reserved so carefully as to publish for the advantage of others, and which I regret the omission of very much.

While we were here, an odd accident gave me some uneasiness, which,

which, however, did not come to much. Early in the grey of the morning, little wind and a smooth sea, a small frigate-built vessel, under Spanish colours, pennant flying, appeared off at sea, at the opening of the North East point of the island. As soon as she came fair with the road, she lay by, as if she came to look into the port only; and when she perceived that we began to loose our sails to speak with her, she stretched away to the Northward, and then altering her course, stood away North East, using oars to assist her, and so got away.

Nothing could be more evident to us, than that she came to look at us, nor could we imagine any thing less; from whence we immediately concluded, that we were discovered, and that our taking away the doctor had given a great alarm among the Spaniards (as indeed

deed we afterwards came to understand it had done). But we came a little while afterwards to a better understanding about the frigate.

I was so uneasy about it, that I resolved to speak with her if possible; so I ordered the Madagascar ship, which of the two was rather a better sailer than our own, to stand in directly to the Coast of Chili, and then to ply to the Northward, just in sight of the shore, till he came into the latitude of twenty-two; and if he saw nothing in all that run, then to come down again directly into the latitude of the island of Juan Fernandes, but keeping the distance of ten leagues off farther than before, and to ply off and on in that latitude five days; and then, if he did not meet with me, to stand in for the island.

While he did this, I did the same at the distance of near fifty leagues from

from the shore, being the distance which I thought the frigate kept in as she stood away from me. We made our cruise both of us very punctually; I found him in the station we agreed on, and we both stood into the road again, from whence we came.

We no sooner made the road, but we saw the frigate, as I called her, with another ship, at an anchor in the same road where she had seen us: And it was easy to see that they were both of them in a great surprize and hurry at our appearing, and that they were under sail in so very little time, as that we easily saw they had slipped their cables, or cut away their anchors. They fired guns twice, which we found was a signal for their boats, which were on shore, to come on board; and soon after we saw three boats go off to them, tho', as we understood afterwards, they were obliged

obliged to leave sixteen or seventeen of their men behind them, who, being among the rocks catching of goats, either did not hear the signals, or could not come to their boats time enough.

When we saw them in this hurry, we thought it must be something extraordinary, and bore down upon them, having the weather-gage.

They were ships of pretty good force, and full of men; and when they saw we were resolved to speak with them, and that there was no getting away from us, they made ready to engage; and putting themselves upon a wind, first stretching a-head to get the weather-gage of us, when they thought they were pretty well, boldly tacked, and lay by for us, hoisting the English antient and union jack.

We had our French colours out till now; but being just, as we thought,

thought, going to engage, I told Capt. Merlotte, I scorned to hide what nation I was of when I came to fight for the honour of our Country ; and, besides, as these people had spread English colours, I ought to let them know what I was ; that if they were really English, and friends, we might not fight by mistake, and shed the innocent blood of our own countrymen ; and that if they were rogues, and counterfeited their being English, we should soon perceive it.

However, when they saw us put out English colours, they knew not what to think of it, but lay by a while to see what we would do. I was as much puzzled as they, for as I came nearer, I thought they seemed to be English ships, as well by their bulk as by their way of working ; and as I came still nearer, I thought I could perceive so plainly by my glasses that they were

English seamen, that I made a signal to our other ship, who had the van, and was just bearing down upon them, to bring to; and I sent my boat to him, to know his opinion. He sent me word, he did believe them to be English; and the more, (said he) because they could be no other nation but English or French, and the latter he was sure they were not; but since we were the largest ships, and that they might as plainly see us to be English, as we could see them, he said, he was for fighting them, because they ought to let us have known who they were first. However, as I had fired a gun to bring him to, he lay by a little till we spoke thus together.

While this was doing we could see one of their boats come off with six oars, and two men, (a lieutenant and a trumpeter it seems they were) sitting in the stern, and one of
them

them holding up a flag of truce: We let them come forward, and when they came nearer, so that we could hale them with a speaking trumpet, we asked them what countrymen they were? And they answered Englishmen. Then we asked them whence their ship? Their answer was from London. At which we bade them come on board, which they did; and we soon found that we were all countrymen and friends, and their boat went immediately back to let them know it. We found afterwards, that they were mere privateers, fitted out from London also, but coming last from Jamaica; and we let them know no other of ourselves; but declined keeping company, telling them, we were bound now upon traffick, and not for purchase; that we had been at the East Indies, had made some prizes, and were going back thi-

ther again. They told us they were come into the South Seas for purchase, but that they had made little of it; having heard there were three large French men of war in those seas, in the Spanish service, which made them wish they had not come about; and that they were still very doubtful what to do.

We assured them, we had been the heighth of Lima; and that we had not heard of any men of war; but that we had passed for such ourselves, and perhaps were the ships they had heard of; for that we were three sail at first, and had sometimes carried French colours.

This made them very glad; for it was certainly so, that we had passed for three French men of war; and they were so assured of it, that they went afterwards boldly up the coast, and made several
very

very good prizes. We then found also, that it was one of these ships that looked into the road as above, when we were here before, and seeing us then with French colours, took us for the men of war they had heard of: And they added, that when we came in upon them again, they gave themselves up for lost men, but were resolved to have fought it out to the last, or rather to have sunk by our side, or blown themselves up, than be taken.

I was not at all sorry that we had made this discovery before we engaged; for the captains were two brave resolute fellows, and had two very good ships under them, one of thirty-six guns, but able to have carried forty-four; the other, which we called the frigate-built ship, carried twenty-eight guns, and they were both full of men. Now, though

we should not have feared their force, yet my case differed from what it did at first, for we had that on board that makes all men cowards, I mean money ; of which we had such a cargo as few British ships ever brought out of those seas ; and I was one of those that had now no occasion to run needless hazards ; so that in short, I was as well pleased without fighting as they could be : Besides, I had other projects now in my head, and those of no less consequence, than of planting a new world, and settling new kingdoms to the honour and advantage of my country ; and many a time I wished heartily, that all my rich cargo was safe at London ; that my merchants were sharing the silver and gold, and the pearl among themselves ; and, that I was but safe on shore with a thousand good families, upon the South of Chili,
and

and about fifteen hundred good soldiers, and arms for ten thousand more (of which by-and-by) and with the two ships I had now with me, I would not fear all the power of the Spaniards; I mean, that they could bring against me in the South Seas.

I had all these things I say, in my head already, though nothing like to what I had afterwards, when I saw farther into the matter myself: However, these things made me very glad, that I had no occasion to engage those ships.

When we came thus to understand one another, we went all into the road together, and I invited the captains of the two privateers on board me, where I treated them with the best I had; though I had no great dainties now, having been so long out of England. They invited me and Captain Merlotte, and the captain of the Madagascar
 I 4 ship,

ship, in return, and indeed treated us very nobly.

After this, we exchanged some presents of refreshments, and particularly, they sent me a hoghead of rum, which was very acceptable; and I sent them in return, a runlet of arrack, excusing myself, that I had no great store. I sent them also the quantity of one hundred weight of nutmegs and cloves; but the most agreeable present I sent them, was twenty pieces of Madagascar dryed beef, cured in the sun, the like of which they had never seen or tasted before; and without question, it is such an excellent way of curing beef, that if I were to be at Madagascar again, I would take in a sufficient quantity of beef so preserved, to victual the whole ship for the voyage; and I leave it as a direction to all English seamen that have

have occasion to use East India voyages.

I bought afterwards six hog-heads of rum of these privateers, for I found they were very well stored with liquors, whatever else they wanted.

We stayed here twelve or fourteen days, but took care, by agreement, that our men should never go on shore the same days that their men went on shore, or theirs when ours went; as well to avoid their caballing together, as to avoid quarreling; though the latter was the pretence. We agreed also, not to receive on board any of our ships respectively any of the crews belonging to the other: And this was their advantage, for if we would have given way to that, half their men, would, for aught I know, have come over to us.

While we lay here, one of them went a cruizing, finding the wind

fair to run in for the shore, and in about five days she came back with a Spanish prize, laden with meal, cocoa, and a large quantity of biscuit, ready baked; she was bound to Lima, from Baldivia, or some port nearer; I do not remember exactly, which: They had some gold on board, but not much, and had bought their lading at St. Jago. As soon as we saw them coming in with a prize in tow, we put out our French colours, and gave notice to the privateers, that it was for their advantage that we did so; and so indeed it was, for it would presently have alarmed all the country, if such a fleet of privateers had appeared on the coast. We prevailed with them to give us their Spanish prisoners, and to allow us to set them on shore; I having assured them I would not land them till I came to Baldivia,
nor

nor suffer them to have the least correspondence with any body till they came thither ; the said Spaniards also giving their parole of honour, not to give any account of their being taken, till fourteen days after they were on shore.

This being the farthest port South which the Spaniards are masters of in Chili, or indeed on the whole continent of America, they could not desire me to carry them any farther : They allowed us a quantity of meal and cocoa out of their booty, for the subsistence of the prisoners, and I bought a larger quantity besides, there being more than they knew how to stow ; and they did not resolve to keep the Spanish ship which they took ; by this means, I was doubly stocked with flower and bread ; but as the first was very good, and well packed in casks and very good jars, it received no injury.

We bought also some of their cocoa, and made chocolate till our men gorged themselves with it, and would have no more.

Having furnished ourselves here with goats flesh, as usual, and taken in water sufficient, we left Juan Fernandes, and saw the cruisers go out the same tide, they steering North North East, and we South South East. They saluted us at parting, and we bade them good-bye in the same language.

While we were now sailing for the coast of Chili, with fair wind and pleasant weather, my Spanish doctor came to me, and told me, he had a piece of news to acquaint me with, which he said, he believed would please me very well; and this was, that one of the Spanish prisoners was a planter, as it is called in the West Indies, or a farmer as we should call it in England, of Villa-Rica, a town built
by

by the Spaniards near the foot of the Andes, above the town of Baldivia; and that he had entered into discourse with him upon the situation of those hills, the nature of the surface, the rivers, hollows, passages into them, &c. whether there were any valleys within the hills, of what extent, how watered, what cattle, what people, how disposed, and the like; and, in short, if there was any way of passing over the Andes, or hills above-mentioned; and he told me, in few words, that he found him to be a very honest, frank, open sort of a person, who seemed to speak without reserve, without the least jealousy or apprehension; and that, he believed I might have an ample discovery from him of all that I desired to know.

I was very glad of this news; and, at my request, it was not many hours before he brought the Spaniard

Spaniard into the great cabin to me, where I treated him very civilly, and gave him opportunity several times to see himself very well used; and indeed all the Spaniards in the ship were very thankful for my bringing them out of the hands of the privateers, and took all occasions to let us see it.

I said little the first time, but discoursed in general of America, of the greatness and opulency of the Spaniards there; the infinite wealth of the country, &c. and I remember well, discoursing once of the great riches of the Spaniards in America, the silver mines of Potosi, and other places, he turned short upon me, smiling, and said, we Spaniards are the worst nation in the world that such a treasure as this could have belonged to; for if it had fallen into any other hands than ours, they would have searched farther into it before now. I
asked

asked him, what he meant by that? and added, I thought they had searched it thoroughly enough; for that I believed no other nation in the world could ever have spread such vast dominions, and planted a country of such a prodigious extent; they having not only kept possession of it, but maintained the government also, and even inhabited it, with only a few people.

Perhaps, seignior, says he, you think, notwithstanding that opinion of yours, that we have many more people of our nation in New Spain than we have. I do not know, said I, how many you may have; but if I should believe you have as many here as in Old Spain, it would be but a few in comparison of the infinite extent of the king of Spain's dominions in America. And then, replied he, I assure you, seignior, there is not one Spaniard to a thousand acres of land, take
one

one place with another, throughout New Spain.

are Very well, said I, then I think the riches and wealth of America ~~is~~ very well searched, in comparison to the number of people you have to search after it. No, says he, it is not neither; for the greatest number of our people live in that part where the wealth is not the greatest; and where even the governor and viceroy, enjoying a plentiful and luxurious life, they take no thought for the encrease, either of the king's revenues or the national wealth. This he spoke of the city of Mexico, whose greatness, and the number of its inhabitants, he said, was a disease to the rest of the body. And what think you, seignior, said he, that in that one city, where there is neither silver nor gold but what is brought from the mountains of St. Clara, the mines at St. Augustine's and
our

our Lady, some of which are an hundred leagues from it, and yet there are more Spaniards in Mexico than in both those two prodigious empires of Chili and Peru?

I seemed not to believe him; and indeed I did not believe him at first, till he returned to me with a question. Pray, seignior Captain, says he, how many Spaniards do you think there may be in this vast country of Chili? I told him, I could make no guess of the numbers; but, without doubt, there were many thousands, intimating, that I might suppose near an hundred thousand. At which he laughed heartily, and assured me, that there were not above two thousand five hundred in the whole kingdom, besides women and children, and some few soldiers, which they looked upon as nothing to inhabitants, because they were not settled any where.

I was

I was indeed surprized, and began to name several large places, which I thought had singly more Spaniards in them than what he talked of. He presently ran over some of them ; and naming Baldivia first, as the most Southward, he asked me, how many I thought were there? And I told him, about three hundred families. He smiled, and assured me, there were not above three or four and fifty families in the whole place, and about twenty-five soldiers ; although it was a fortification and a frontier. At Villa Rica, or the Rich Town, where he lived, he said, there might be about sixty families, and a lieutenant with twenty soldiers. In a word, we passed over the many places between, and came to the capital St. Jago, where after I had supposed there were five thousand Spaniards, he protested to me, there were not above eight hundred, including

cluding the viceroy's court, and including the families at Valparaiso, which is the sea port, and excluding only the soldiers, which, as he said, being the capital of the whole kingdom, might be about two hundred, and excluding the religious, who, he added, laughing, signified nothing to the planting a country, for they neither cultivated the land nor increased the people.

Our doctor, who was our interpreter, smiled at this, but merrily said, that was very true, or ought to be so; intimating, that though the priests do not cultivate the land, yet they might chance to increase the people a little; but that was by the way. As to the number of inhabitants at St. Jago, the doctor agreed with him, and said, he believed he had said more than there were, rather than less.

As to the kingdom or empire of Peru, in which there are many
consider-

considerable cities and places of note, such as Lima, Quitto, Cusco la Plata, and others; there are besides, a great number of towns on the sea coasts, such as port Arica, St. Miguel, Prayta, Guyaquil, Truxillo, and many others.

He answered that it was true, that the city of Lima, with the town of Callao, was much increased within a few years; and particularly of late, by the settling of between three and four hundred French there, who came by the king of Spain's licence; but that before the coming of those gentlemen, at which he shook his head, the country was richer, tho' the inhabitants were not so many; and that, take it as it was now, there could not be reckoned above fifteen hundred families of Spaniards, excluding the soldiers and the clergy, which, as above, he reckoned.

reckoned nothing as to the planting of the country.

We came then to discourse of the silver mines at Potosi, and here he supposed, as I did also, a very great number of people; but Seignior, says he, what people is it you are speaking of? There are many thousands of servants, but few masters; there is a garrison of four hundred soldiers, always kept in arms and in good order, to secure the place, and keep the negros and criminals who work in the mines in subjection; but, that there were not besides five hundred Spaniards, that is to say men, in the whole place and its adjacents. So that in short, he would not allow above seven thousand Spaniards in the whole empire of Peru, and two thousand five hundred in Chili; at the same time allowing twice as many as both

both these in the city of Mexico only.

After this discourse was over, I asked him what he inferred from it, as to the wealth of the country not being discovered? He answered, it was evident that it was for want of people that the wealth of the country lay hid; that there was infinitely more lay unenquired after, than had yet been known; that there were several mountains in Peru equally rich in silver with that of Potosi; and as for Chili, says he, and the country where we live, there is more gold at this time in the mountains of the Andes, and more easy to come at, than in all the world besides: Nay, says he, with some passion, there is more gold every year washed down out of the Andes of Chili into the sea and lost there, than all the riches that go from New Spain

Spain to Europe in twenty years amount to.

This discourse fired my imagination, you may be sure, and I renewed it upon all occasions, taking more or less time every day to talk with this Spaniard upon the subject of cultivation of the lands, improvement of the country, and the like; always making such enquiries into the state of the mountains of the Andes, as best suited my purpose, but yet so as not to give him the least intimation of my design.

One day, conversing with him again about the great riches of the country, and of the mountains and rivers, as above, I asked him, that seeing the place was so rich, why were they not all princes, or as rich as princes, who dwelt there? He shook his head, and said, it was a great reproach upon them many ways; and when I pressed him to explain himself, he answered,

wered, it was occasioned by two things, namely, pride and sloth.—Seignior, says he, we have so much pride that we have no avarice, and we do not covet enough to make us work for it. We walk about sometimes, says he, on the banks of the streams that come down from the mountains, and if we see a bit of gold lie on the shore, it may be we will vouchsafe to lay off our cloak and step forward to take it up; but if we were sure to carry home as much as we could stand under, we would not strip and go to work in the water, to wash it out of the sand; or take the pains to get it together; nor, perhaps, dishonour ourselves so much as to be seen carrying a load, no, not for all the value of the gold itself.

I laughed then indeed, and told him, he was disposed to jest with his countrymen, or to speak ironically; meaning, that they did not
take

take so much pains as was required, to make them effectually rich; but that, I supposed, he would not have me understand him as he spoke. He said, I might understand as favourably as I pleased, but I should find the fact to be true, if I would go up with him to Villa Rica, when I came to Baldivia; and with that, he made his compliment to me, and invited me to his house.

I asked him with a *con licentia*, Seignior, that is, with pardon for so much freedom, that if he lived in so rich a country, and where there was so inexhaustible a treasure of gold, how he came to fall into this state of captivity? and what made him venture himself upon the sea to fall into the hands of pirates?

He answered, that it was on the very foot of what he had been complaining of; and that having seen

so much of the wealth of the country he lived in, and having reproached himself with that very indolence which he now blamed all his countrymen for, he had resolved, in conjunction with two of his neighbours the Spaniards, and men of good substance, to set to work in a place in the mountains where they had found some gold, and had seen much washed down by the water, and to find what might be done in a thorough search after the fund or mine of it, which they were sure was not far off; and that he was going to Lima, and from thence if he could not be supplied, to Panama, to buy negroes for the work, that they might carry it on with the better success.

This was a feeling discourse to me, and made such an impression on me, that I secretly resolved, that when I came to Baldivia, I would go up with this sincere Spaniard

niard (for so I thought him to be, and so I found him) and would be an eye-witness to the discovery, which I thought was made to my hand, and which I found now, I could make more effectual than by all the attempts I was like to make by second hand.

From this time I treated the Spaniard with more than ordinary courtesy, and told him, if I was not captain of a great ship, and had a cargo upon me of other gentlemens estates, he had said so much of those things, that I should be tempted to give him a visit, as he desired, and see those wonderful mountains of the Andes.

He told me, that if I would do him so much honour, I should not be obliged to any long stay; that he would procure mules for me at Baldivia, and that I should go not to his house only, but to the moun-

tain itself, and see all that I desired, and be back again in fourteen days at the farthest. I shook my head, as if it could not be, but he never left importuning me; and once or twice, as if I had been afraid to venture myself with him, he told me, he would send for his two sons, and leave them in the ship as hostages for my safety.

I was fully satisfied as to that point, but did not let him know my mind yet; but every day we dwelt upon the same subject, and I travelled through the mountains and valleys so duely in every day's discourse with him, that when I afterwards came to the places we had talked of, it was as if I had looked over them in a map before.

I asked him, if the Andes were a mere wall of mountains, contiguous and without intervals and spaces like a fortification or boundary

dary to a country? Or, whether they lay promiscuous and distant from one another? And, whether there lay any way over them into the country beyond?

He smiled when I talked of going over them: he told me, they were so infinitely high, that no human creature could live upon the top; and withal so steep and so frightful, that if there was even a pair of stairs up on one side, and down on the other, no man would dare to mount up, or venture down.

But that, as for the notion of the hills being contiguous, like a wall that had no gates, that was all fabulous; that there were several fair entrances in among the mountains, and large, pleasant and fruitful valleys among the hills, with pleasant rivers and numbers of inhabitants, and cattle and provisions of all sorts; and that some of the

most delightful places to live in, that were in the whole world, were among the valleys, in the very center of the highest and most dreadful mountains.

Well, said I, Seignior, but how do they go out of one valley into another? And whither do they go at last? He answered me, those valleys are always full of pleasant rivers and brooks, which fall from the hills, and are formed generally into one principal stream to every vale; and that as these must have their outlets on one side of the hills, or on the other, so following the course of those streams, one is always sure to find the way out of one valley into another, and at last, out of the whole into the open country; so that it was very frequent to pass from one side to the other of the whole body of the mountains, and not go much higher up hill or down hill, compared to the hills in other places.

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It was true, he said, there was no abrupt visible parting in the mountains, that should seem like a way cut through from the bottom to the top, which would be, indeed, frightful; but that as they pass from some of the valleys to others, there are ascents and descents, windings and turnings, sloping up, and sloping down, where we may stand on those little ridges, and see the waters on one side run to the West, and on the other side, to the East.

I asked him, what kind of a country was on the other side? and how long time it would take up to go through from one side to the other? He told me, there were ways, indeed, that were more mountainous and uneasy, in which men kept upon the sides or declivity of the hills; in which the natives would go, and guide others to go, and so might pass the whole ridge of the Andes in eight or nine

days; but that those ways were esteemed very dismal, lonely and dangerous, because of wild beasts; but that through the valleys, the way was easy and pleasant, and perfectly safe, only farther about; and that those ways a man might be sixteen or seventeen days going through.

I laid up all this in my heart, to make use of as I should have occasion; but I acknowledged, that it was surprizing to me, as it was so perfectly agreeing with the notion that I always entertained of those mountains, of the riches of them, the facility of access to and from them, and the easy passage from one side to another.

The next discourse I had with him upon this subject, I began thus; Well, Seignior, said I, we are now come quite through the valleys and passages of the Andes, and, methinks, I see a vast open country
before

before me on the other side; pray tell me, have you ever been so far as to look into that part of the world, and what kind of a country it is?

He answered gravely, that he had been far enough several times, to look at a distance into the vast country I spoke of; and such indeed it is, said he; and as we come upong the rising part of the hills, we see a great way, and a country without end; but as to any descriptions of it, I can say but little, added he, only this, that it is a very fruitful country on that side next the hills: What it is farther, I know not.

I asked him, if there were any considerable rivers in it? and which way they generally run? He said, it could not be, but that from such a ridge of mountains as the Andes, there must be a great many rivers on that side, as there were ap-

parently on this; and that, as the country was infinitely larger, and their course, in proportion longer, it would necessarily follow, that those small rivers would run one into another, and so form great navigable rivers, as was the case in the Rio de la Plata, which originally sprung from the same hills, about the city La Plata in Peru, and swallowing up all the streams of less note, became, by the mere length of its course, one of the greatest rivers in the world: That, as he observed, most of those rivers ran rather South Eastward, than Northward, he believed they ran away to the sea, a great way farther to the South, than the Rio de la Plata; but as to what part of the coast they might come to the sea in, that he knew nothing of.

This account was so rational, that nothing could be more; and was indeed, extremely satisfactory.

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It was also very remarkable, that this agreed exactly with the accounts before given me by the two Chilian Indians, or natives, which I had on board, and with whom I still continued to discourse as occasion presented; but whom at this time, I removed into the Madagascar ship, to make room for these Spanish prisoners.

I observed the Spaniard was made very sensible by my doctor of the obligation both he and his fellow-prisoners were under to me, in my persuading the privateers to set them at liberty, and in undertaking to carry them home to that part of Spain from whence they came; for as they had lost their cargo, their voyage seemed to be at an end. The sense of the favour, I say, which I had done him, and was still doing him, in the civil treatment which I gave him, made this gentleman, for such he was in himself, and in

his disposition, whatever he was by family, for that I knew nothing of; I say, it made him exceeding importunate with me, and with my doctor, who spoke Spanish perfectly well, to go with him to Villa Rica.

I made him no promise, but talked at a distance; I told him, if he had lived by the sea, and I could have sailed to his door in my ship, I would have made him a visit. He returned, that he wished he could make the river of Baldivia navigable for me, that I might bring my ship up to his door, and he would venture to say, that neither I, nor any of my ship's company, should starve while we were with him. In the interval of these discourses, I asked my doctor his opinion, whether he thought I might trust this Spaniard, if I had a mind to go up and see the country for a few days?

Seignior, says he, the Spaniards are, in some respects, the worst nation

tion under the sun; they are cruel, inexorable, uncharitable, voracious, and, in several cases, treacherous; but in two things, they are to be depended upon beyond all the nations in the world; that is to say, when they give their honour to perform any thing; and when they have a return to make for any favour received: and here he entertained me with a long story of a merchant of Carthagena, who, in a sloop, was shipwrecked at sea, and was taken up by an English merchant, on board a ship bound to London from Barbadoes, or some other of our islands; that the English merchant, meeting another English ship bound to Jamaica, put the Spanish merchant on board him, paid him for his passage, and desired him to set him on shore on the Spanish coast, as near to Carthagena as he could. This Spanish merchant could never rest till he found

found means to ship himself from Carthagenah to the Havanah, on the galleons; from thence to Cadiz in Old Spain; and from thence to London, to find out the English merchant, and make him a present to the value of a thousand pistoles, for saving his life, and for his civility in returning him to Jamaica, &c. Whether the story was true or not, his inference from it was just, namely, that a Spaniard never forgot a kindness; but take it withal, says the doctor, that I believe it is as much the effect of their pride, as of their virtue; for at the same time, said he, they never forget an ill turn, any more than they do a good one; and they frequently entail their enmities on their families, and prosecute the revenge from one generation to another; so that the heir has, with the estate of his ancestors, all the family broils upon his hands as he comes to his estate.

From

From all this he inferred, that as this Spaniard found himself so very much obliged to me, I might depend upon it, that he had so much pride in him, that if he could pull down the Andes for me to go through, and I wanted it, he would do it for me; and that nothing would be a greater satisfaction to him, than to find some way or other how to requite me.

All these discourses shortened our voyage, and we arrived fair and softly (for it was very good weather, and little wind) at Tucapel, or the river Imperial, within ten leagues of Baldivia, that is to say, of Cape Bonifacio, which is the North point of the entrance into the river of Baldivia; and here I took one of the most unaccountable, and I must needs acknowledge, unjustifiable resolutions, that ever any commander intrusted with a ship of such force, and a cargo of such

such consequence, adventured upon before; and which I, by no means, recommend to any commander of any ship to imitate; and this was, to venture up into the country above one hundred and fifty miles from my ship, leaving the success of the whole voyage, the estates of my employers, and the richest ship and cargo, that ever came out of those seas, to the care and fidelity of two or three men. Such was the unsatisfied thirst of new discoveries, which I brought out of England with me, and which I nourished at all hazards, to the end of the voyage.

However, though I condemn myself in the main, for the rashness of the undertaking, yet let me do myself so much justice, as to leave it on record too, that I did not run this risque without all
needful

needful precautions for the safety of the ship and cargo.

And first, I found out a safe place for the ships to ride; and this, neither in the river of Tucapel, nor in the river of Baldivia, but in an opening or inlet of water without a name, about a league to the South of Tucapel, embayed and secured from almost all the winds that could blow: Here the ships lay easy, with water enough, having about eleven fathoms good holding ground, and about half a league from shore.

I left the Supercargo and my chief mate, also a kinsman of my own, a true sailor, who had been a midshipman, but was now a lieutenant: I say, to those I left the command of both my ships, but with express orders not to stir, nor unmoor, upon any account whatever, unavoidable accidents excepted, until my return, or until,
if

if I should die, they should hear of that event; no, though they were to stay there six months, for they had provisions enough, and an excellent place for watering lay just by them; and I made all the men swear to me, that they would make no mutiny or disorder, but obey my said kinsman in one ship, and the Supercargo in the other, in all things, except removing from that place; and that if they should command them to stir from thence, they would not so much as touch a sail or a rope for the purpose.

When I had made all these conditions, and told my men, that the design I went upon was for the good of their voyage, for the service of the owners, and should, if it succeeded, be for all their advantages, I asked them if they were all willing I should go? To which they all answered, that they were very willing, and would take the same

same care of the ships, and of all things belonging to them, as if I were on board. This encouraged me greatly, and I now resolved nothing should hinder me.

Having thus concluded every thing, then, and not till then, I told my Spaniard, that I had almost resolved to go along with him; at which he appeared exceedingly pleased, and indeed, in a surprise of joy. I should have said, that before I told him this, I had set all the rest of the prisoners on shore, at their own request, just between the port of Tucapel and the bay of the Conception, excepting two men, who, as he told me, lived in the open country beyond Baldivia, and, as he observed, were very glad to be set on shore with him, so to travel home, having lost what little they had in the ship, and to whom he communicated nothing of the discourse we had so frequently

frequently held, concerning the affair of the mountains.

I also dismissed now the two Chilian Indians, but not without a very good reward, proportioned to not their trouble and time only, but proportioned to what I seemed to expect of them, and filling them still with expectations, that I would come again, and take a journey with them into the mountains.

And now it became necessary, that I should use the utmost freedom with my new friend the Spaniard, being, as I told him, to put my life in his hands, and the prosperity of my whole adventure, both ship and ship's company.

He told me, he was sensible that I did put my life into his hands, and that it was a very great token of my confidence in him, even such a one, that he, being a stranger to me, had no reason to expect; but he

he desired me to consider, that he was a christian—not a savage; that he was one, I had laid the highest obligation upon, in voluntarily taking him out of the hands of the freebooters, where he might have lost his life. And, in the next place, he said, it was some recommendation, that he was a gentleman, and that I should find him to be a man of honour; and, lastly, that it did not appear, that he could make any advantage of me, or that he could get any thing by using me ill; and if even that was no argument, yet I should find, when I came to his house, that he was not in a condition to want any thing, that might be gained, so much as to procure it by such a piece of villany and treachery, as to betray and destroy the man who had saved his life, and brought him out of the hands of the devil, safe to his country
and

and family, when he might have been carried away, God knows whither. But, to conclude all, he desired me to accept the offer he had made me at sea (viz.) That he would send for his two sons, and leave them on board the ship as hostages for my safety, and desired they might be used on board no otherwise than I was used with him in the country.

I was ashamed to accept such an offer as this; but he pressed it earnestly, and importuned the doctor to move me to accept it, telling him, that he should not be easy if I did not; so, that, in short, the doctor advised me to agree to it; and accordingly he hired a messenger and a mule, and sent away for his two sons to come to him; and such expedition the messenger made, that in six days he returned with the two sons, and three servants, all on horseback. His two sons
were

were very pretty well behaved youths, who appeared to be gentlemen in their very countenances; the eldest was about thirteen years old, and the other about eleven. I treated them on board, as I had done their father, with all possible respect; and having entertained them two days, left order, that they should be treated in the same manner when I was gone; and to this I added aloud (that their father might hear it) that whenever they had a mind to go away, they should let them go: But their father laid a great many solemn charges upon them, that they should not stir out of the ship till I came back safe; and that I gave them leave; and he made them promise, that they would not; and the young gentlemen kept their word so punctually, that when our supercargo, whom I left in command, offered to let them go on shore

shore several times, to divert them with shooting and hunting, they would not stir out of the ship, and did not, till I came back again.

Having gone this length, and made every thing ready for my adventure, we set out, viz. Captain Merlotte, the Spanish doctor, the old mutineer who had been my second mate, but who was now captain of the Madagascar ship, and myself, with two midship-men, whom we took as servants, but whom I resolved to make the directors of the main enterprize. As to the number, I found my Spaniard made no scruple of that, if it had been half my ship's company.

We set out, some on horses, and some on mules, as we could get them, but the Spaniard and myself rode on two very good horses, being the same that his two sons came on. We arrived at a noble country

country seat about a league short of the town, where, at first, I thought we had been only to put in for refreshment; but I soon found, that it was really his dwelling-house, and where his family and servants resided.

Here we were received like princes, and with as much ceremony as if he had been a prince that entertained us: The major domo, or steward of his house, received us, took in our baggage, and ordered our two servants to be taken care of.

It is sufficient to say, that the Spaniard did all that pride and ostentation was capable of inspiring him with, to entertain us; and the truth is, he could not have lived in a country in the world more capable of gratifying his pride; for here, without any thing uncommon, he was able to shew more gold plate, than many good fami-

lies, in our country, have of silver; and as for silver, it quite eclipsed the appearance, or rather took away the very use of pewter, of which, we did not see one vessel, no, not in the meanest part of his house: It is true, I believe, the Spaniard had not a piece of plate, or of any household furniture, which we did not see, except what belonged to the apartment of his wife; and it is to be observed, that the women never appeared, except at a distance, and in the gardens, and then being under veils, we could not know the lady from her women, or the maids from the mistresses.

We were lodged every one in separate apartments, very well furnished, but two of them very nobly indeed; though all the materials for furniture must be there at an excessive price. The way of lodging upon quilts, and in beds, made pavillion-

pavillion-wise, after the Spanish custom, I need not describe; but it surprized me to see the rooms hung with very rich tapestries, in a part of the world where they must cost so dear.

We had Chilian wine served us up in round gold cups, and water in large silver decanters, that held, at least, five quarts a piece; these stood in our chamber. Our chocolate was brought us up in the same manner, in deep cups, all of gold, and it was made in vessels all of silver.

It would be tiresome to the reader to particularize my account with the relation of all the fine things our host had in his house, and I could not be persuaded, but that he had borrowed all the plate in the town to furnish out his side-board and table; but my doctor told me, it was nothing but what was very usual among them that

were men of any substance, as it was apparent he was; and that the silver-smiths at St. Jago supplied them generally with their plate ready wrought in exchange (with allowance for the quality) for the gold which they found in the mountains, or in the brooks and streams which came from the mountains, into which the hasty showers of winter rain frequently washed down pretty large lumps; and others, which were smaller, they washed out of the sands by the ordinary methods of washing of ore.

I was better satisfied in this particular, when, the next day, talking to our new landlord about the mountains, and the wealth of them; I asked him, if he could shew me any of the gold which was usually washed out of the hills by the rain, in the natural figure in which it was found? He smiled, and told me

me he could shew me a little, and immediately conducted us into a kind of a closet, where he had a great variety of odd things gathered up about the mountains and rivers; such as fine shells, stones in the form of stars, heavy pieces of ore, and the like; and after this, he pulled out a great leather bag, which had, I believe, near fifty pounds weight in it; here, Seignior, says he, here is some of the dirt of the earth, and turning it out upon the table, it was easy to see that it was all mixed with gold, though the pieces were of different forms, and some scarce looking like gold at all, being so mixed with the spar, or with earth, that it did not appear so plain; but in every bit, there was something of the clear gold to be seen, and the smaller the lumps, the purer the gold appeared.

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I was surprized at the quantity, more than at the quality of the metal, having, as I have said, seen the gold which the Indians found in the countries I have described, which seemed to have little or no mixture; but then I was to have considered, that what those Indians gathered, was farther from the hills which it came from, and that those rough, irregular pieces would not drive so far in the water, but would lodge themselves in the earth and sand of the rivers nearer home; and also that the Indians, not knowing how to separate the gold by fire from the dross and mixture above, did not think those rough pieces worth their taking up, whereas the Spaniards here understood much better, what they were about.

But to return to the closet. When he had shewn us this leather pouch of gold, he swept the ore to one side of the table, which had ledges round

round it, to keep it from running off, and took up another bag full of large pieces of stone, great lumps of earth, and pieces of various shapes, all of which had some gold in them, but not to be gotten out but by fire: These, he told us, their servants bring home as they find them in the mountains, lying loose here and there, when they go after their cattle.

But still I asked him, if they found no pieces of pure gold? upon this, he turned to a great old cabinet full of pretty large drawers, and pulling out one drawer, he shewed us a surprizing number of pieces, of pure clean gold, some round, some long, some flat, some thick, all of irregular shapes, and worked roundish at the ends, with rolling along on the sands; some of these weighed a quarter of an ounce, some more, and some less, and as I lifted the drawer, I thought

L 4. there

there could not be less than between twenty and thirty pounds weight of it.

Then he pulled out another drawer, which was almost full of the same kind of metal, but as small as sand, the biggest not so big as pins heads, and which might very properly be called gold dust.

After this sight we were not to be surprized at any thing he could shew us of the kind. I asked him, how long such a treasure might be amassing together in that country? He told me, that was according to the pains they might take in the search; that he had been twelve years here, and had done little or nothing; but had he had twenty negroes to have set on work, as he might have had, he might have procured more than this in one year. I asked him, how much gold in weight he thought there might be in all he had shewn me? He

He told me, he could not tell; that they never troubled themselves to weigh, but when the silver-smith at St. Jago came to bring home any vessel, or, when the merchants from Lima came to Baldivia with European goods, then they bought what they wanted of them; that they were sensible they gave excessive prices for every thing, even ten or twenty for one: But as gold, he said, was the growth of that country, and the other things, such as cloth, linen, fine silks, &c. were the gold of Europe, they did not think much to give what was asked for those things. In short, I found, that the people in this country, though they kept large plantations in their hands, had great numbers of cattle, ingenios, as they call them, for making sugar, and land, under management, for the maintenance of themselves and families; yet did

not wholly neglect the getting gold out of the mountains, where it was in such plenty; and therefore it seems the town adjacent is called Villa Rica, or The Rich Town, being seated, as it were, at the foot of the mountains, and in the richest part of them.

After I had sufficiently admired the vast quantity of gold he had, he made signs to the doctor, that I should take any piece or any quantity that I pleased; but thought, I might take it as an affront, to have him offer me any particular small parcel. The doctor hinted it to me, and I bade him return him thanks; but to let him know, that I would by no means have any of that, but that I would be glad to take up a piece or two, such as chance should present to me in the mountains; that I might shew in my own country, and tell them, that I took it up with my own hands:

hands: He answered, he would go with me himself; and doubted not, but to carry me where I should fully satisfy my curiosity, if I would be content to climb a little among the rocks.

I now began to see plainly, that I had no manner of need to have taken his sons for hostages, for my safety; and would fain have sent for them back again; but he would by no means give me leave; so I was obliged to give that over. A day or two after, I desired he would give me leave to send for one person more from the ships, who I had a great mind should see the country with me, and to send for some few things that I should want, and, withal, to satisfy my men, that I was safe and well.

This he consented to; so I sent away one of the two midshipmen, whom I called my servants, and with him two servants of the Spaniard,

niard, my landlord, as I styled him, with four mules and two horses: I gave my midshipman my orders and directions under my hand, to my supercargo what to do; for I was resolved to be even with my Spaniard for all his good usage of me. The midshipman and his two companions did not return in less than ten days, for they came back pretty well laden, and were obliged to come all the way on foot.

The whole of this time, my landlord and I spent in surveying the country, and viewing his plantation. As for the city of Villa Rica, it was not the most proper to go there in public; and the doctor knew that as well as the Spaniard; and therefore, though we went several times incognito, yet it was of no consequence to me, neither did I desire it.

One night I had a very strange fright here, and behaved myself very

very much like a simpleton about it: The case was this. I waked in the middle of the night, and chancing to open my eyes, I saw a great light of fire, which to me seemed as if the house, or some part of it had been on fire. I, as if I had been at Wapping or Rotherhith, where people are always terrified with such things, jumped out of bed, and called my friend captain Merlotte, and cried out fire, fire! The first thing I should have thought of, on this occasion, should have been, that the Spaniard did not understand what the words fire, fire! meant; and, that if I expected they should understand me, I should have cried fuego, fuego!

However, Captain Merlotte got up, and my Madagascar Captain, for we all lay near one another, and with the noise they waked the whole house; and my landlord, as he afterwards confessed, began to suspect

suspect some mischief; his steward having come to his chamber door, and told him, that the strangers were up in arms; in which mistake we might all have had our throats cut, and the poor Spaniard not to blame neither.

But our doctor coming hastily in to me, unriddled the whole matter, which was this, that a volcano, or burning vent among the hills, being pretty near the Spanish side of the country, as there are many of them in the Andes, had flamed out that night, and gave such a terrible light in the air, as made us think the fire had at least been in the out-houses, or in part of the house, and accordingly had put me in such a fright.

Upon this, having told me what it was, he ran away to the Spanish servants, and told them what the meaning of it all was; and bade them go and satisfy their master, which they did,

did, and all was well again ; but as for myself, I sat up almost all the night staring out from the window at the eruption of fire upon the hills, for the like wonderful appearance I had never seen before.

I sincerely begged my landlord's pardon for disturbing his house ; and asked him, if those eruptions were frequent ? He said, no, they were not frequent, for they were constant, either in one part of the hills or another ; and that in my passing the mountains I should see several of them. I asked him, if they were not alarmed with them ? and if they were not attended with earthquakes ? He said, he believed that among the hills themselves, they might have some shakings of the earth, because sometimes were found pieces of the rocks that had been broken off and fallen down ; and that it was among those, that sometimes
parts

parts of stone were found which had gold interspersed in them, as if they had been melted and run together; of which he had shewn me some: But that as for earthquakes in the country, he had never heard of any since he came thither, which had been upwards of fifteen years, including three years that he dwelt at St. Jago.

One day, being out on horse-back with my landlord, we rode up close to the mountains, and he shewed me at a distance an entrance, as he called it, into them, frightful enough indeed; as shall be described in its place. He then told me, that was the way he intended to carry me when he should go to shew me the highest hills in the world: But he turned short, and smiling said, it should not be yet; for though he had promised me a safe return, and left hostages
for

for it, yet he had not capitulated for time.

I told him, he need not capitulate with me for time; for if I had not two ships to stay my coming, and between three and four hundred men eating me up all the while, I did not know whether I should ever go away again or not, if he would give me house-room. He told me, as to that, he had sent my men some provisions, so that they would not starve if I did not go back for some days. This surprized me not a little, and I discovered it in my countenance. Nay, Seignior, says he, I have only sent them some victuals to maintain my two hostages; for you know they must not want. It was not good manners in me to ask what he had sent; but I understood, as soon as my midshipman returned, that he had sent down sixteen cows or runts, I know
not

not what else to call them, but they were black cattle; thirty hogs, thirteen large Peruvian sheep, as big as great calves; and three casks of Chilian wine, with an assurance, that they should have more provisions when that was spent.

I was amazed at all this munificence of the Spaniard, and very glad I was, that I had sent my midshipman for the things I intended to present him with; for I was as well able to requite him for a large present as he was to make it, and had resolved it before I knew he had sent any thing to the ship; so that this exchanging of presents was but a kind of generous barter or commerce: For as to gold, we had either of us so much, that it was not at all equal in value to what we had to give on both sides, as we were at present stated.

In short, my midshipman returned with the horses and servants;

vants ; and when we had brought what I had sent for into a place which I desired the Spaniard to allow me to open my things in, I sent my doctor to desire the Spaniard to let me speak with him.

I told him first, that he must give me his parole of honour not to take amiss what I had to say to him ; that it was the custom in our country at any time, to make presents to the ladies, with the knowledge and consent of their husbands or parents, without any evil design, or without giving any offence ; but that I knew it was not so among the Spaniards : That I had not had the honour yet either to see his lady or his daughter, but that I had heard he had both : However, that if he pleased to be the messenger of a trifle I had caused my man to bring, and would present it for me, and not take it as an offence, he should see before-hand what it was,

was, and I would content myself with his accepting it in their behalf.

He told me, smiling, he did not bring me thither to take any presents of me; I had already done enough, in that I had given him his liberty, which was the most valuable gift in the world; and as to his wife, I had already made her the best present I was able, having given her back her husband; that it is true, it was not the custom of the Spaniards to let their wives appear in any public entertainment of friends, but that he had resolved to break through that custom; and that he had told his wife, what a friend I had been to her family, and that she should thank me for it in person; and that then, what present I had designed for her, since I would be a maker of presents, she should do herself the honour to take it with her own hands, and

and he would be very far from mistaking them, or taking it ill from his wife.

As this was the highest compliment he was able to make me, the more he was obliging in the manner; for he returned in about two hours, leading his wife into the room by the hand, and his daughter following.

I must confess I was surprized, for I did not expect to have seen such a sight in America. The lady's dress indeed I cannot easily describe, but she was really a charming woman, of about forty years of age, and covered over with emeralds and diamonds, I mean, as to her head. She was veiled till she came into the room, but gave her veil to her woman when her husband took her by the hand. Her daughter I took to be about twelve years old, which the Spaniards count marriageable; she was pretty,

pretty, but not so handsome as her mother.

After the compliments on both sides, my landlord, as I now call him, told her very handsomely what a benefactor I had been to her family, by redeeming him from the hands of villains: And she, turning to me, thanked me in the most obliging manner, and with a modest graceful way of speech, such as I cannot describe, and which, indeed, I did not think the Spaniards, who are said to be so haughty, had been acquainted with.

I then desired the doctor to tell the Spaniard her husband, that I requested his lady to accept a small present which my midshipman had brought for her from the ship, and which I took in my hand, and the Spaniard led his wife forward to take it: And I must needs say, it was not a mean present, besides, its being of ten times the value in that place,

place, as it would have been at London, and I was now very glad that, as I mentioned above, I always reserved a small quantity of all sorts of goods unfold, that I might have them to dispose of as occasion should offer.

First, I presented her with a very fine piece of Dutch Holland, worth, in London, about seven shillings an ell, and thirty-six ells in length, and worth in Chili, to be sure, fifteen pieces of eight per ell, at least; or it was rather likely, that all the kingdom of Chili had not such another.

Then I gave her two pieces of China damask, and two pieces of china silks called atlasses, flowered with gold; two pieces of fine muslin, one flowered, the other plain, and a piece of very fine chintz, or printed callicoe; also a large parcel of spices, made up in elegant papers, being about six pounds of nutmegs,

megs, and about twice as many cloves.

And lastly, to the young lady I gave one piece of damask, two pieces of china taffity, and a piece of fine striped muslin.

After all this was delivered, and the ladies had received them, and given them their women to hold, I pulled out a little box, in which I had two couple of large pearls, of that pearl which I mentioned we found at the pearl islands, very well matched for ear-rings, and gave the lady one pair, and the daughter the other; and now, I think, I had made a present fit for an ambassador to carry to a prince.

The ladies made all possible acknowledgment, and we had the honour that day to dine with them in public. My landlord, the Spaniard, told me, I had given them such a present, as the viceroy of Mexico's

Mexico's lady would have gone fifty leagues to have received.

But I had not done with my host ; for, after dinner, I took him into the same room, and told him, I hoped he did not think I had made all my presents to the ladies, and had nothing left to shew my respect to him ; and, therefore, first I presented him with three negro men, which I had bought at Callao for my own use, but knew I could supply myself again at or in my way home, at a moderate price ; in the next place, I gave him three pieces of black Colchester baize, which, though they are coarse ordinary things in England, that a footman would scarce wear, are a habit for a prince in that country ; I then gave him a piece of very fine scarlet English serge, which was really very valuable in England, but much more there ; and another piece of crimson broad cloth, and

six pieces of fine silk druggets for his two sons, and thus I finished my presents. The Spaniard stood still, and looked on all the while I was laying out my presents to him, as one in a transport, and said not one word till all was over; but then he told me very gravely, that it was now time for him to turn me out of his house; for, seignior, says he, no man ought to suffer himself to be obliged beyond his power of return, and I have no possible way of making any return to you equal to such things as these.

It is true, the present I had made him, if it was to be rated by the value of things in the country where it then was, would have been valued at six or seven hundred pounds sterling, but to reckon them as they might cost me, did not all together amount to above one hundred pounds, except the

the three negros, which, indeed, cost me at Lima one thousand two hundred pieces of eight.

He was as sensible of the price of those negros, as I was of the occasion he had of them, and of the work he had to do for them; and he came to me about an hour after, and told me, he had looked over all the particulars of the noble presents which I had made them; and though the value was too great for him to accept, or for any man to offer him, yet, since I had been at so much trouble to send for the things, and that I thought him worthy such a bounty, he was come back to tell me, that he accepted, thankfully, all my presents, both to himself, and to his wife and daughter, except only the three negros, and as they were bought in the country, and were the particular traffick of the place, he could not take them as a present; but would be equally obliged, and

take it for as much a favour, if I would allow him to pay for them.

I smiled, and told him, he and I would agree upon that; for he did not yet know what favours I had to ask of him, and what expence I should put him to; that I had a great design in my view, which I was to crave his assistance in, and which I had not yet communicated to him, in which he might, perhaps, find that he would pay dear enough for all the little presents I had made him; and, in the mean time, to make himself easy as to the three negro men, I gave him my word, that he should pay for them; only not yet.

He could have nothing to object against an offer of this kind, because he could not guess what I meant; but gave me all the assurances of service and assistance that lay in his power, in any thing that I might

I might have to do in that country.

But here, by the way, it ought to be understood, that all this was carried on with a supposition, that we acted under a commission from the king of France; and though he knew many of us were English, and that I was an Englishman in particular, yet, as we had such a commission, and produced it, we were Frenchmen, in that sense, to him, nor did he entertain us under any other idea.

The sequel of the story will also make it sufficiently appear, that I did not make such presents as these in mere ostentation, or only upon the compliment of a visit to a Spanish gentleman, any more than I would leave my ship, and a cargo of such value, in the manner I had done, to make a tour into the country, if I had not had views sufficient to justify such measures; and

the consequence of those measures, will be the best apology for my conduct with all, who will impartially consider them.

We had now spent a fortnight, and something more, in ceremony and civilities, and in, now and then, taking a little tour about the fields, and towards the mountains. However, even in this way of living, I was not so idle as I seemed to be, for I not only made due observations of all the country which I saw, but informed myself sufficiently of the parts which I did not see. I found the country not only fruitful in the soil, but wonderfully temperate and agreeable in its climate. The air, though hot, according to its proper latitude, yet that heat so moderated by the cool breezes from the mountains, that it was rather equal to the plain countries in other parts of the world, in the latitude of
fifty,

fifty, than to a climate in thirty-eight to forty degrees.

This gave the inhabitants the advantages, not only of pleasant and agreeable living, but also of a particular fertility, which hot climates are not blessed with, especially as to corn, the most necessary of all productions, such as wheat, I mean European wheat, or English wheat, which grew here as well and as kindly, as in England; which in Peru, and in the Isthmus of America, will by no means thrive for want of moisture and cold.

Here were also, an excellent middling breed of black cattle, which the natives fed under the shade of the mountains, and on the banks of the rivers, till they came to be very fat. In a word, here were, or might be produced, all the plants, fruits, and grain, of a temperate climate. At the same

time, the orange, lemon, citron, pomegranate, and figs, with a moderate care, would come to a very tolerable perfection in their gardens; and even sugar-canes, in some places, though these last but rarely, and not without great art in the cultivation, and chiefly in gardens.

I was assured, that farther Southward beyond Baldivia, and to the latitude of forty-seven to forty-nine, the lands were esteemed richer than where we now were; the grass more strengthening and nourishing for the cattle; and that, consequently, the black cattle, horses, and hogs, were all of a larger breed; but that, as the Spaniards had no settlement beyond Baldivia to the South, so they did not find the natives so tractable as where we then were; where, though the Spaniards were but few, and the strength they had, was but small, yet, as upon
any

any occasion, they had always been assisted with forces sufficient from St. Jago, and, if need were, even from Peru, so the natives had always been subdued, and had found themselves obliged to submit; and that now they were entirely reduced, and were, and had been, for several years, very easy and quiet: Besides the plentiful harvest which they made of gold from the mountains (which appeared to be the great allurements of the Spaniards) had drawn them rather to settle here, than farther Southward, being naturally addicted, as my new landlord confessed to me, to reap the harvest which had the least labour and hazard attending it, and the most profit.

Not but that, at the same time, he confessed, that he believed, and had heard, that there was as much gold to be found farther to the South, as far as the mountains con-

M 5 tinued;

tinued; but that, as I have said, the natives were more troublesome there, and more dangerous, and that the king of Spain did not allow troops sufficient to civilize and reduce them.

I asked him concerning the natives in the country where we were? He told me they were the most quiet, and inoffensive people, since the Spaniards had reduced them by force, that could be desired; that they were not, indeed, numerous or warlike, the warlike and obstinate part of them having fled farther off to the South, as they were overpowered by the Spaniards; that for those who were left, they lived secure, under the protection of the Spanish governor; that they fed cattle, and planted the country, and sold the product of their lands chiefly to the Spaniards; but that they did not covet to be rich, only to obtain cloaths, arms,

arms, powder and shot; which, however they were suffered to have but sparingly, and with good assurance of their fidelity. I asked him, if they were not treacherous and perfidious? And if it was not dangerous trusting themselves among them in the mountains, and among the retired places where they dwelt? He told me, that it was quite the contrary; that they were so honest, and so harmless, that he would at any time venture to send his two sons into the mountains a hunting, with each of them a Chilian for his guide, and let them stay with the said natives two or three nights and days at a time, and be in no uneasiness about them; and that none of them were ever known to do any foul or treacherous thing by the Spaniards, since he had been in that country.

M 6

Having

Having thus fully informed myself of things, I began now to think it was high time to have a sight of the particulars which I came to enquire after (viz.) the passages of the mountains, and the wonders that were to be discovered on the other side; and accordingly I took my patron the Spaniard by himself, and told him, that as I was a traveller, and was now in such a remote part of the world, he could not but think I should be glad to see every thing extraordinary, that was to be seen; that I might be able to give some account of the world when I came into Europe, better, and differing from what others had done, who had been there before me; and that I had a great mind, if he would give me his assistance, to enter into the passages and valleys which he had told me so much of in the mountains, and if it was possible, which indeed

indeed I had always thought it was not, to take a prospect of the world on the other side.

He told me, it was not a light piece of work, and perhaps the discoveries might not answer my trouble, there being little to be seen but steep precipices, unhospitable rocks, and impassable mountains, immuring us on every side, innumerable rills and brooks of water falling from the cliffs, making a barbarous and unpleasant sound; and that sound echoed and reverberated from innumerable cavities and hollows among the rocks, and these all pouring down into one middle stream, which we should always find on one side or other of us as we went, and that sometimes we should be obliged to pass those middle streams, as well as the rills and brooks on the sides, without a bridge, and at the trouble of pulling off our cloaths.

He

He told us, that we should meet, indeed, with provisions enough, and with an innocent harmless people, who according to their ability, would entertain us very willingly; but that I who was a stranger, would be forely put to it for lodging, especially for so many of us.

However, he said, as he had perhaps at first, raised this curiosity in me, by giving me a favourable account of the place, he would be very far from discouraging me now; and that if I resolved to go, he would not only endeavour to make every thing as pleasant to me as he could, but that he and his major domo would go along with me, and see us safe through, and safe home again; but desired me, not to be in too much haste, for that he must make some little preparation for the journey, which as he told us, might perhaps take us
up

up fourteen or sixteen days forward, and as much back again; not he said, that it was necessary that we should be so long going and coming, as that he supposed I would take time to see every thing which I might think worth seeing, and not be in so much haste, as if I was sent express. I told him, he was very much in the right; that I did not desire to make a thing, which I expected so much pleasure in, be a toil to me more than needs must; and above all, that, as I supposed, I should not return into these parts very soon, I would not take a cursory view of a place, which I expected would be so well worth seeing, and let it be known to all I should speak of it to, that I wanted to see it again, before I could give a full account of it.

Well, Seignior, says he, we will not be in haste, or view it by halves; for if wild and uncouth places

places will be a diversion to you, I promise myself your curiosity shall be fully gratified; but as to extraordinary things, rarities in nature, and surprizing incidents which foreigners expect, I cannot say much to those. However, what think you, Seignior, says he, if we should take a tour a little way into the entrance of the hills, which I shewed you the other day, and look upon the gate of this gulph? Perhaps your curiosity may be satisfied with the first day's prospect, which I assure you, will be none of the most pleasant, and you may find yourself sick of the enterprize.

I told him, no; I was so resolved upon the attempt, since he, who I was satisfied would not deceive me, had represented it as so feasible, and especially since he had offered to conduct me through it, that I would not for all the gold that was in the mountains,
lay

lay it aside. He shook his head at that expression, and smiling at the doctor, says he, this gentleman little thinks that there is more gold in these mountains, nay, even in this part where we are, than there is now above ground in the whole world. Partly understanding what he said, I answered, my meaning was to let him see that nothing could divert me from the purpose of viewing the place, unless he himself forbade me, which I hoped he would not; and that as for looking a little way into the passage, to try if the horror of the place would put a check to my curiosity, I would not give him that trouble, seeing the more terrible and frightful, the more difficult and impracticable it was, provided it could be mastered at last, the more it would please me to attempt and overcome it.

Nay,

Nay, nay Seignior, said he pleasantly, there is nothing difficult or impracticable in it, nor is it any thing but what the country people, and even some of our nation perform every day; and that not only by themselves, either for sport in pursuit of game, but even with droves of cattle which they go with from place to place, as to a market or a fair; and therefore, if the horror of the clifts and precipices, the noises of the volcanos, the fire and such things as you may hear and see above you, will not put a stop to your curiosity, I assure you, you shall not meet with any thing impassable or impracticable below, nor any thing but what with the assistance of God and the blessed Virgin (and then he crossed himself, and so we did all) we shall go chearfully over.

Finding

Finding therefore that I was thus resolutely bent upon the enterprize, but not in the least guessing at my design, he gave order to have servants and mules provided, for mules are much fitter to travel among the hills than horses; and in four days he promised to be ready for a march.

I had nothing to do in all these four days but to walk abroad, and as we say look about me; but I took this opportunity to give instructions to my two midshipmen, who were called my servants, in what they were to do.

First, I charged them to make land-marks, bearings, and beacons, as we might call them, upon the points of the rocks above them, and at every turning in the way below them, also at the reaches and windings of the rivers or brooks, falls of water, and every thing

thing remarkable; and to keep each of them separate and distinct journals of those things; not only to find the way back again by the same steps; but that they might be able to find that way afterwards by themselves, and without guides, which was the foundation and true intent of all the rest of my undertaking; and as I knew these were both capable to do it, and had courage and fidelity to undertake it, I had singled them out for the attempt, and had made them fully acquainted with my whole scheme, and consequently, they knew the meaning and reason of my present discourse with them: They promised not to fail to shew me a plan of the hills, with the bearings of every point, one with another, where every step was to be taken, and every turning to the right hand or to the

the

the left, and such a journal I believe, was never seen before or since; but it is too long for this place. I shall, however, take out the heads of it as I proceed, which may serve as a general description of the place.

The evening of the fourth day, as he had appointed, my friend the Spaniard let me know, that he was ready to set out, and accordingly we began our cavalcade: my retinue consisted of six as before, and we had mules provided for us; my two midshipmen as servants, had two mules given them also for their baggage: The Spaniard had six also, viz. His gentleman, or as I called him before, his Major Domino on horseback, that is to say, on mule-back, with mules for his baggage, and four servants on foot. Just before we set out, his gentleman brought each of us a fuzee, and

and our two servants, each a harquebuss, or short musket with cartouches, powder and ball, together with a pouch and small shot, such as we call swan-shot, for fowls or deer, as we saw occasion.

I was as well pleased with this circumstance as with any my landlord had done, because I had not so intire a confidence in the native Chilians, as he had; but I saw plainly some time after, that I was wrong, for nothing could be more honest, quiet, and free from design, than those people, except the poor honest people where we dressed up the king and queen as already mentioned.

We were late in the morning before we got out, having all this equipage to furnish, and travelling very gently, it was about two hours before sun-set, when we came to the entrance of the
moun-

mountains, where to my surprize, I found we were to go in upon a level, without any ascent, at least, that was considerable. We had, indeed gone up upon a pretty sharp ascent, for near two miles, before we came to the place.

The entrance was agreeable enough, the passage being near half a mile broad. On the left hand, was a small river, whose channel was deep, but the water shallow, there having been but little rain for some time; the water ran very rapid, and as my Spaniard told me, was sometimes exceeding fierce; the entrance lay inclining a little South, and was so strait, that we could see near a mile before us; but the prodigious height of the hills on both sides, and before us, appearing one over another, gave such a prospect of horror, that I confess it was frightful at first to
look

look on the stupendous altitude of the rocks : Every thing above us looking one higher than another, was amazing ; and to see how, in some places, they hung over the river, and over the passage, it created a dread of being overwhelmed with them.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

Defoe, Daniel, 1660-1731

Daniel De Foe's Voyage Round The World, By A Course Never Sailed Before To
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